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photo illustration by Graham Winterbottom and beth

What goes on behind the doors in UVic's residences? *The Martlet* takes a peek.

feature story on pages 8 and 9

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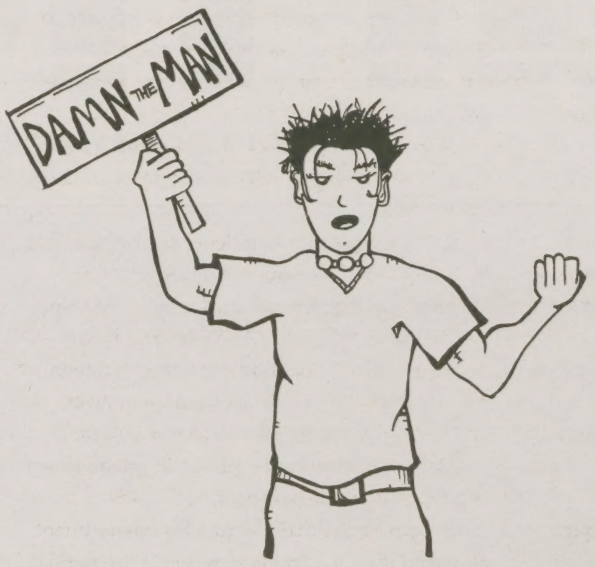
B.C. activists meet to plan action for Alberta G-8 summit

by Darren Stewart



graphic by Joanna Wong

Activists from across B.C. are gearing up early for protests surrounding next June's G-8 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta.

People from all over the world are expected to converge at the resort during the Group of Eight leaders' conference this summer to express a shared belief that the current disparity of global wealth is unjust and a result of a flawed economic system.

The G-8 is a group made up of the eight most economically powerful countries' leaders.

On Jan. 5 almost 50 representatives from various social justice groups met in Vancouver for the first of a series of meetings to network and hear an update from groups planning action in Alberta. They also discussed what role activists from the western province could play in preparing for the leader's summit.

The meeting was organized by a handful of Vancouver activists to get the local ball rolling in time for June.

Co-organizer Kevin Millsip said he was pleasantly surprised with the turnout and hoped it suggested a strong commitment from B.C's activist community.

"It's great, considering this was all thrown together ad-hoc," he said. "We're only just beginning to organize."

The group, made up of people from all over B.C. and as far away as Toronto, heard extensive reports from Alberta activists and carried a lively debate. Some described themselves as the "Group of Six Billion" – representing anybody not invited to the annual meeting of the economic powerhouses.

"We're just looking for ideas on how we can connect, what support we can offer the Alberta groups and what action people out here will take," said Millsip.

Meeting topics ranged from organizing a blockade at the highway leading into Kananaskis, to the planning of a counter-conference at the University of Alberta and the development of strategies for involving unions in the planning and action process. Participants also discussed whether the new anti-terrorism and security legislation would play a role at the convergence in June.

Marika Schwandt, a representative of the Edmonton activist community, said those concerns are unwarranted because security at previous activist convergences in Quebec City, during the FTAA meetings and in Vancouver, during the APEC meetings, were not limited in their power to arrest and control participants.

"My initial reaction is to downplay [new security legislation]," said Schwandt. "[The police] have always done what they'll do without worrying about it."

She said that so far planning for the G-8 has been a challenge as it has been split between Calgary and Edmonton rather than having a focal point. But she said there are also some advantages.

"There's a larger population base so a broader representation of different people because with two cities you get two activist communities," said Schwandt.

There has been much debate in the activist community about how to register dissent without jeopardizing the sensitive wilderness surrounding Kananaskis and whether local organizers should call for a mass convergence on Calgary, or on the highway leading to the wilderness resort.

Kananaskis is located 100 kilometres west of Calgary.

"It's a bit of a problem," said Schwandt. "The meeting is happening in a pretty wild place and most of us are used to urban activism."

Calgary activist Shane, who would only give his first name, said people would come to Calgary and Kananaskis from all over the world no matter what groups in the province decide. He said he hopes some will organize "solidarity protests" in their own country and community.

"A lot of people learned from Genoa and they aren't stepping down. They aren't necessarily coming to Canada but there are definitely things happening beyond our borders," Shane said.

He gave a thorough report of actions planned in Calgary, the closest major urban centre to Kananaskis, where many believe will be a focal point of protest action.

"We're not ahead or behind in our planning we're right on the money," he said. "You can never start organizing too early. That's one of the things I've learned after being involved in the past."

Minutes from previous planning meetings as well as details for future actions and meetings are posted at www.g8.activist.ca.

UVic bikini girl calendar controversy still unresolved

by Sarah Glen

UVic administration is still waiting for its name to be removed from an unauthorized website about a month after the trademark violation was first revealed.

Jordan Clarke, a UVic social science student, made the website www.uvicgirls.com to advertise his self-produced calendar, which featured university girls in bikinis posed around campus and the city of Victoria.

Clarke did not receive permission from the university to use its name either on the calendar or on the website.

"It's important for the university to assert its legal rights, but not with a sledgehammer," said Mary Anne Waldron, UVic's associate vice president of legal affairs.

Since UVic found out about Clarke's calendar, which was selling in the SUB throughout the December exam period, both Waldron and UVic Information Officer Patty Pitts contacted Clarke explaining the violation and his options.

When a business uses the UVic name to sell merchandise without prior permission, it is asked to destroy the products or somehow cover them up with a different name or logo.

In Clarke's case, he opted to change the calendar title from UVic Girls to Girls of Victoria. He promised to make a similar change to the website as well. But as of Monday, the website using UVic's name was still posted.

"He told us [the website] would be changed before Christmas. But it seems that hasn't happened," said Pitts.

Clarke, who held a student position on the UVSS finance committee last semester, told Director of Finance Jonas Gifford that he would be moving to Australia in January.

Neither Pitts nor Waldron have heard from Clarke since December and all attempts to contact him for this article failed.

Even so, Waldron believes the website will be changed before the end of January.

"People are generally cooperative with this kind of thing," she said.

In December Clarke told the National Post he was using the calendar to bolster his chances of being accepted to the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario in London.

"I hope Ivey will see me as a self-motivated student," he said.

Clarke took the pictures of the girls himself and paid each aspiring model, most of whom are in their first year on campus, $150 and a promise of 1.5 per cent of the profits from its sales.

Linda Maasch, assistant manager for the bookstore, which handles trademark permission for the university, said most times the unauthorized use of the university's name is caused by a misunderstanding. Most people believe the university is public property when in fact it is a licensed corporation.

"UVic is licensed just like the Vancouver Canucks, and just like the hockey team the university doesn't want just anybody to make up an item and sell it," she said.

Maasch said Clarke never approached her to license his calendar or website.

It doesn't cost anything to license an approved product, but UVic gets seven per cent from the cost of each product sold.

Clarke was selling his calendar in the SUB for $9.99 and $11 on the website.

Other universities tack a 15 per cent fee on products using their name, said Maasch.

"It's really quite low," she said about UVic's product fee.

Businesses that want to use the UVic name on their product are evaluated based on the quality of the product and whether the product poses a danger to customers.

Moral issues, like those surrounding half-naked university girls posing for Clarke's calendar are secondary, said Maasch.

Last fall Maasch allowed one of UVic's Rugby teams to use the university's name on their calendar, which was sold as a fundraiser for the team.

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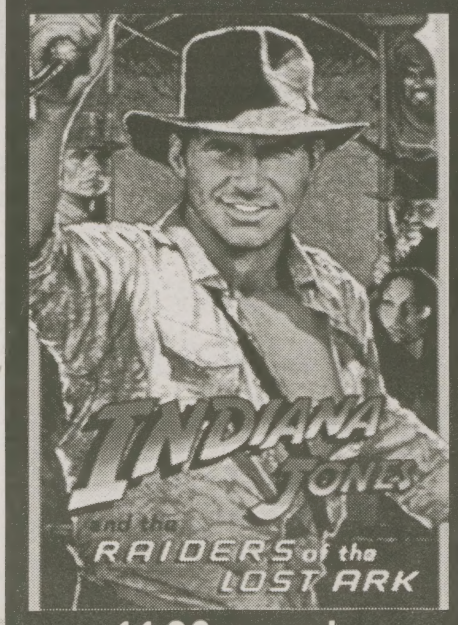

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Student society reacts to year's dismal finances

by John Thompson

The long-awaited audit of the UVSS financial statements from last year is finally completed and the results are grim.

The student society had originally projected a surplus for the 2000-2001 year but instead winded up with a $426,000 deficit.

"It's the legally accepted picture of what's happened," said Jonas Gifford, the director of finance. "These are the final figures."

The figures were supposed to be released publicly at the society's Fall AGM but were held up after auditors discovered a discrepancy of hundreds of thousands of dollars. A police investigation and forensic audit are still going on.

Gifford said the UVSS has been scrambling to restructure its business operations, which is where the budget's massive discrepancies were found.

Vertigo, Subtext, Food Services and Felicitas posted the biggest differences in their budgets.

"The bleeding has slowed down, but it hasn't stopped," said Gifford, who added that SUB operations over the summer will have to be reviewed, but insists that no major changes will be made that affect students.

He also said he was against increasing student fees to help pay off the deficit.

"Raising membership fees is completely unfair," Gifford said. "The way we need to recover losses from our businesses is to run our businesses better."

"Our plan, in [a] nutshell, is to run our businesses a lot better than we have before."

Some recent changes to SUB operations include new food and liquor controls introduced in Felicitas and Food Services to keep better track of sales, and the training of business managers by professionals so these systems are used effectively, Gifford said.

"Felicitas' bottom line has become significantly better," he said. "There's still evidence of problems, but they're clearing up."

In the case of Food Services, Gifford said the situation has improved but there are few indications by how much.

"To be honest, we don't know if we're losing money or not," he said.

As for Vertigo, the nightclub recently closed its doors indefinitely.

"We lost a lot of money on Vertigo," Gifford said. "It's money we can't get back, but we won't lose it next year."

The SUB will also hire external consultants to evaluate its business managers, something that Gifford said he doesn't feel elected students are competent to do.

Gifford said he still feels that students are capable of running a multi-million dollar business like the SUB.

"I firmly believe that students can run the SUB the way we do," he said. "Provided that the businesses of the SUB are run soundly," he said.

The budgets for every SUB business is now handled by the accounting department, rather than drafted solely by student representatives, said General Manager interim Marne Jensen.

"We weren't using the accounting department as an accounting department," she said.

In the past, the SUB's accounting department produced the spending figures, while the budget was made by the director of finance. Now, both the spending and budget columns are being managed by accounting.

"Those statements are being produced much more accurately than in the past," she said.

But there are still no concerted plans to tackle the student society's massive debt. This will be developed when the society meets with the Royal Bank this spring, to draw up a new business plan and reassess their relationship, Jensen said.

The bank has been notified of the society's financial position, but has not made any comment.

The Royal Bank holds most of the loans for the UVSS.

Gifford said the cash crisis was probably a combination of both poor decision-making and outright theft, but said he still didn't know what the balance between those two extremes is.

This will probably be determined by the outcome of the forensic audit and Saanich Police investigation, which are both still under way.

Because the forensic audit will be used as evidence for a criminal investigation, as well as a civil action by the society or insurance disputes, the society may not make the information available until the disputes are resolved.

"A lot of work has been done," Jensen said. "(But) we'll have to be very sensitive in terms of how we share that information."

Both Gifford and Jensen said that more details will be available during the society's Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM) this February.

Student leaders fume at Senate denial of amnesty for Feb. 6

by Kevin Groves

The UVic Senate denied full academic amnesty for students for the Feb. 6 day of action at its last meeting.

Senators considered granting an "excused absence" so students could join the rally at the legislature but after an hour-long discussion, they passed an amended motion asking professors only to avoid penalizing students for attending the rally. Regular classes will be held on Feb. 6 and students are expected to make up any missed work if they choose to participate.

Jamie Cassels, UVic's vice-president academic and provost, said he thought the motion met everyone's concerns and said it was supported by a large majority.

But student leaders are fuming at the decision.

Jaime Matten, UVSS chair, said the Senate watered down the motion, which she said had been passed with the original wording for similar rallies since 1994.

"This year the discussion was that it wasn't clear what an excused absence was, how it could be proven that students would attend the rally, etcetera," Matten said. "It was like we were trying to reinvent the wheel."

But Cassels said the discussion was necessarily long to determine a clear definition of what an excused absence was. He added the Senate does not know faculty course plans, and asking to excuse all students on a particular day might cause unforeseen difficulties.

"For instance, if the motion required faculty members to 'accommodate' student absences this would possibly signal that faculty would have to take extra steps to help students make up for any lost work," he said.

Now that the decision has been made, Cassels said the amended motion retains a student's right to make their own decision regarding the event.

He said he has written to all dean's and chairs to make sure instructors make reasonable efforts to prevent academic penalty for participating on Feb. 6.

"I certainly think that it is appropriate for students to exercise their democratic rights and take steps to ensure that we maintain an excellent and adequately funded university system," he said.

Still, some wonder if the Senate was reluctant to grant full amnesty this year because of seeming surety about the tuition freeze review process' outcome.

"It appears that the Senate has resigned itself to the fact that funding increases are going to be necessary, so they're being a lot stickier this year," said Jonas Gifford, UVSS director of finance.

But Patrick von Aderkas, a Biology professor at UVic who sits on the Senate, said it would be inaccurate to assume faculty and administrative members have any hidden agenda.

"The members have quite divergent political beliefs and we're all aware that raising tuition decreases accessibility," Von Aderkas said.

He added that, with the current budgetary restraints, faculty members in administrative positions might be more likely to agree that tuition should go up if it meant a better undergraduate education for their students.

"Having said that, though, others may disagree on the principle that the B.C. university system has been systematically underfunded and that the cure lies with the government coming up with more money for buildings and students," he said.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Students line up at the bookstore beginning yet another crazy term here at UVic. Bookstore staff attempt to remain cheerful while keeping the lines moving.

THE INFLUENCES—
Filmmaking
in the '20s and '30s

Fritz Lang, the Austrian filmmaker, once said that "we develop only with the help of the influences received from outside."

In this course we will discuss in depth social influences on filmmakers and their artistic impact on society. As well, using the work of Fritz Lang, we will explore filmmaking in the '20s and '30s with respect to politics, arts, culture, and society.

Note: The final session of this course is a screening of Lang's film *M* at the Maritime Museum (includes reception).

This course is brought to you by the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival, the Maritime Museum of B.C., the Humanities Centre, and the Division of Continuing Studies, UVic.

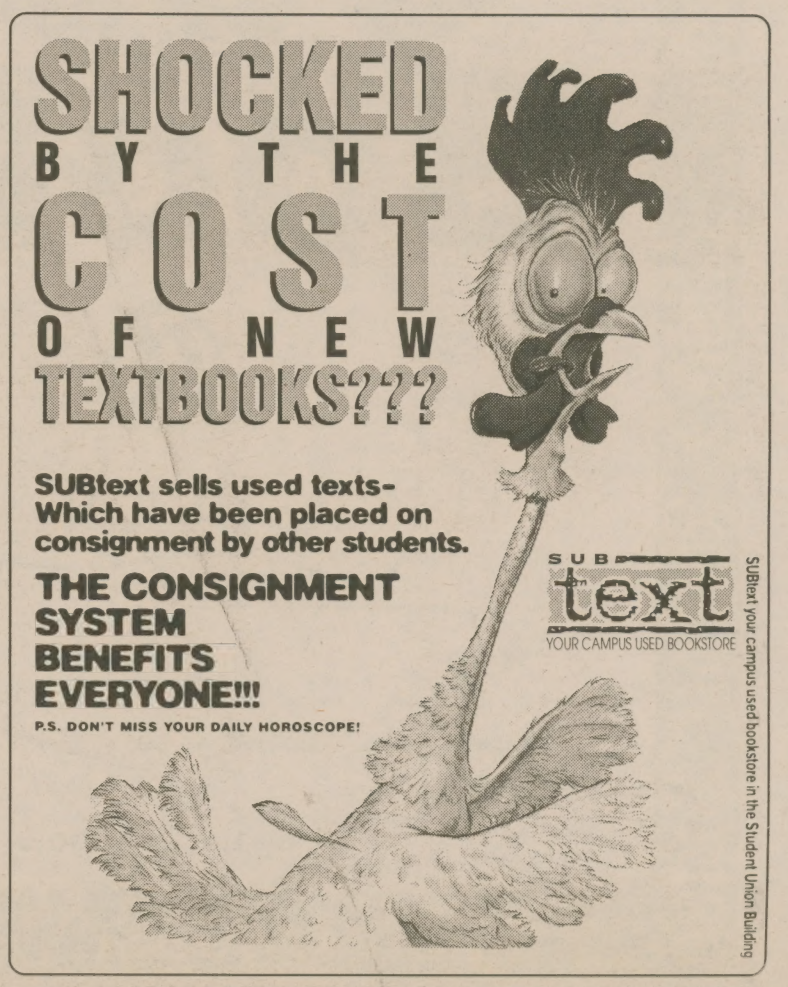
Speakers:

- Dr. Perry Biddiscombe, Department of History, UVic
- Dr. Matthew Pollard, Department of Germanic and Russian Studies, UVic
- Dr. Thomas Saunders, Department of History, UVic
- Professor Tom Gunning, Fritz Lang specialist, Department of Art History, University of Chicago

DATES: Wednesdays, January 16 to 30 and Thursday February 7: 7:30 to 9 pm (lectures); and Friday, February 8 (screening of M and reception): 7 to 9:30 pm, 5 sessions

FEE: $80.25 (includes $5.25 GST and reception)

For further information: Call 721-8481 or e-mail *jking@uvcs.uvic.ca*.



Helpful advice on how to find a home

by Kristin Macintosh

Grab your scissors and get ready to cut this one out. I'm about to tell you everything you need to know to find and rent a house.

With a vacancy rate of only 0.5 per cent in 2001 in comparison to 1.8 percent in 2000, it has become increasingly difficult for students to find a home.

Emily Shorthouse, a 24-year-old UVic student started looking for a place last semester. Though there were many ads on the UVic web site over the summer, the site was bare by the time she started school again in September.

"Obviously the most common places to look are in the newspapers, the housing lists at UVic and even the Internet. But there are some places that people don't even try," said Diana Mander, a property manager with Royal LePage in Vancouver.

Her ideas range from driving down main streets looking for signs, to checking local areas where signs may be posted (like recreation centres or corner stores).

Shorthouse found her place last semester driving around the city.

"It was advertized on the sign on the outside of the building," she said. "People just get the number and call them."

Once you've found a house, here are a few questions to keep in mind:

If it's only half the house, who rents the other half? If it's a retired old lady and you're planning on a rager every week, chances are your tenancy isn't going to last.

If your landlord lives in the other part of the house, are you happy having them right beneath or above you? Are animals allowed? Do you have to sign a lease? If your utilities aren't included, how much a month do they cost? If you are sharing, how much of the utilities do you pay?

"Students need to really watch that, and if it seems they are paying too much, then they need to consult the landlord immediately," said Mander.

Don't forget storage. Is there a spot for you to store that new Cannondale bike or are you forced to keep it under your bed? What about parking? If no spot is included, putting down money for the parking pass might make the place unaffordable. If you're dependent on transit, where's the nearest bus stop? Can you take the bus right to school or do you have to transfer?

> First impressions are probably what make it.
> *Julie Sykes*

So now that you've found the perfect place and asked the right questions, how do you cinch the deal? Landlords can be wary of student rentals.

"I try to never rent to students. It's too complicated because someone is always moving, there are often complaints. Students aren't always bad, but I've had enough bad experiences that I will try to find someone else before I rent to them," said Mander.

Don't get discouraged.

Julie Sykes, a local property manager rents to students. She bases a great deal on the first meeting with the perspective tenant.

Even if you are casually looking for a place in jeans on a Sunday, it is still a business meeting and should be treated as one. You need to come across as professional and responsible.

"First impressions are probably what make it," said Sykes. "Usually I take a look at their car and see how well it looks. You make a snap judgment."

Now that you've impressed the landlord enough to rent to you, it's time to discuss the contract.

First, remember it is illegal for the landlord to charge more than one-half month's rent as a damage deposit. Second, your landlord can ask you to sign a year's lease. After the lease expires, your tenancy automatically lapses into a month to month agreement.

If you're a student who plans to go home for the summer, try to wrangle a nine-month fixed term contract. If you're not sure where you'll be in the summer, sign a fixed term with the option to go by month to month after it expires.

After signing a contract your rent cannot be raised. If it is raised after a year, the landlord must justify it. Same goes with evictions.

Landlords must have proof that the tenant is ripping up the place or not paying the rent before any type of eviction.

Now that the U-Haul's unpacked, how do you keep up that great relationship with your landlord?

"Keep the house in good repair," said Mander.

"The owner of the house wants to be proud of his property and he wants to know you are too," she said.

Also, remember neighbours are the ears and eyes of your landlord. If they have a problem with you, chances are your landlord will hear about it.

Be on your best behaviour until you are sure the place is yours. Behind closed doors you're welcome to do whatever you want; just keep the blinds shut.

Victoria's affordable housing dilemma

by Lorna Mace

Affordable housing is becoming rare in Victoria and people in lower income groups have a difficult time finding a decent place to live.

Peggy Prill, a spokeswoman for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, said that although Victoria's population is growing, the number of new rental units have been at less than one hundred per year.

"Lately, we haven't had a lot of rental construction to speak of," said Prill. "It makes it difficult to find a place to live in."

A major cause for the shortage is a lack of incentive for companies to renew Victoria's dwindling stock of affordable housing.

"Financially, it doesn't make sense to build rental buildings," said Bill Brown, a spokesman for Brown Brothers, one of Victoria's predominant apartment agencies. "What you have seen built is condos."

He added that his agency is currently at full occupancy.

Kim Scragg of Pacifica Housing, a non-profit affordable housing society, said the British Columbia Residential Tenancy Act, which regulates the landlord/tenant relationship, may also be to blame. She said the way the act is set up makes it difficult for landlords to profit from affordable housing.

"There's no new rental stock being built, it's become so labour intensive for landlords," Scragg said.

The act only allows landlords to raise rent in small increments per month. Unlike condos, apartment buildings have become an ineffective method of profit.

"That is a disincentive for new construction," said Brown.

Another problem with the rise in demand for affordable housing, is that landlords have the opportunity to become picky when selecting tenants.

Streetlink representative Ron McNaughton makes the comparison of two potential tenants: a presentable university student, versus a man with a tattoo and a missing tooth.

"We see people with money in their hand who literally can't find a place," McNaughton said. "If you've got less than four-hundred dollars [for a month's rent], then you're kind of screwed."

> If you've got less than four hundred dollars [for a month's rent], then you're kind of screwed.
> *Ron McNaughton*

Prill believes that one of the reasons for the rise in rent costs could be Victoria's housing demands.

"Generally speaking, when vacancy rates are lower, rental increase seems to be more related to supply and demand," Prill said.

According to a British Columbia April 2001 profile, "Homelessness – Causes and Effects," insufficient supply of affordable housing is a key and contributing factor for homelessness in British Columbia.

McNaughton relates the lack of affordable housing to the population attending Streetlink.

"It does back up some of our bed space," McNaughton, said. "For people in transition they have the resources, but if they can't find [a place,] they're still homeless."

Both Streetlink and the Salvation Army allow a person to stay in the shelter for seven days per month, no questions asked, but after that, they become homeless.

"Our flexibility to extend [the stay for] people is affected by the size of the waitlist," McNaughton said.

Brown added that incentive for apartment construction may lie in the revising of the Residential Tenancy Act and the policies regarding the raising of rents.

Rich Coleman, the minister of public safety, who is responsible for residential tenancy, said that he is revising the act.

Coleman was unavailable for comment.

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UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Environmentalists sound off about fragile coastal rainforest

by Christine Vopel

Picture a remote coastal rainforest, home to 1,500 year-old Sitka Spruce trees, roaring waterfalls and abundant sea life. Imagine a region seven million hectares in size where roads do not exist and animals such as grizzly bears and coastal wolves roam freely.

The Great Bear Rainforest is one of these places. It is also the largest tracts of temperate rainforest left in the world.

Located on British Columbia's mainland coast, the forest stretches from Knight Inlet to the Alaskan panhandle and is only accessible by float plane or boat.

Even so, extreme clear-cutting practices and depleted sockeye salmon mark the mountains and rivers within the rainforest.

About 320 B.C. salmon stocks are now extinct and the grizzly bear population has since rapidly diminished in the forest.

Located within the Rainforest, the Khutzeymateen is the only government-protected park providing sanctuary for grizzly bears. Since the "Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy" in 1995, no grizzly bear habitat has ever been protected.

"There is a huge potential for eco-tourism rather than clear-cutting in the Great Bear Rainforest. Coastal rainforests need to be represented. In terms of grizzly bears, conservation is crucial," said Sarah Pugh from Victoria's Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC).

Chris Genovali and Ian McAllister are two researchers working to protect the forest and all the animals that live there.

The duo represent the Raincoast Conservation Society, a non-profit environmental organization that focuses on strong science-based fieldwork. "[The society] educates the public while it concentrates on people advocacy," said McAllister.

For 10 years now, the society along with various other environmental organizations such as Valhalla Wilderness Society and Forest Ethics, has been striving to protect the Great Bear Rainforest from further ecological damage.

"A great thing about the [forest] is that it still has the large mammal species such as the far-ranging carnivores – when you associate this with sea lions and a thriving marine eco-system, it's really a place of global stature."

On April 4, 2001, B.C.'s former NDP government set aside 20 intact areas on the central coast. These areas were to be protected grizzly bear habitat, but were never legislated.

International market pressure campaigns targeting B.C.'s coastal wood products were suddenly halted when the proposed protected areas were announced.

Another 68 valleys, deliberately left out of the April 4 announcement, are still unprotected and at risk of being clear-cut. "Campbell's (Liberal) regime is shaping up as the most anti-environmental government in North America," said Genovali, of B.C.'s newest provincial government, headed by Gordon Campbell.

Since the Liberal's came to power, conflict over the future of the rainforest started once again.

"If the Liberals do not uphold the agreement of the previous government, it's going to trigger another huge campaign. On the other hand large forest companies such as Western Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser are just following what they are licensed to do," said McAllister. "Gordon Campbell has made it pretty clear that it's business as usual no matter what the environmental consequences."

Both McAllister and Genovali believe the Great Bear Rainforest is a unique and diverse rainforest – a place worth protecting.

graphic by Joanna Wong

"I've spent a good part of my life in these river valleys and it's hard not to develop a really close bond with the land," said McAllister.

New federation poster targeting rich students causes controversy

by Kevin Groves

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) drew some fire for a controversial poster they distributed recently to member organizations including the UVSS.

The poster depicts three students smugly dressed in prep school attire with a caption below that says "They can afford higher tuition fees, but can you?"

It goes on to tell students to "Enjoy college and university while you can," since the B.C. government plans to raise tuition beyond the reach of all but the wealthiest.

Summer McFadyen, B.C. Chair of the CFS, said her group intended the poster's criticism to be directed toward the B.C. government, and not wealthy students.

"The poster attempts to say that the line [the government] is using about higher tuition fees making post secondary education better is totally inaccurate," McFadyen said. "It's making the university an exclusive playground for the rich, that is the concern and we want to make sure students and the public are aware that if tuition goes up this is what colleges and universities will look like."

> This poster definitely has the potential to be divisive.
>
> *Adam Peters, UVSS Director at Large*

McFadyen added the depiction of the three students should not be taken literally, and was not intended to single out the wealthy.

"The posters are an exaggeration, and they're meant to be humorous," McFadyen said. "People don't really look like this and we're not trying to say that wealthy people should not go to school."

McFadyen said response to the posters has been varied.

"We have had some mixed feedback about the posters," she said. "Some have felt offended while others have felt that it really makes the point."

Still, not everyone on campus thought the message was appropriate.

"I certainly see how that poster could be seen as offensive," said Sarah Pugh, a fourth-year history student. "Not everyone with money is as snobby and uptight and phony looking as those people."

Adam Peters, UVSS Director-at-Large, agreed.

"This poster definitely has the potential to be divisive and I think it's a bad political decision," said Peters, "It seems to be creating a class division which is not what we should be going for."

UVSS Chair Jaime Matten said the posters will be displayed on UVic's walls as part of their campaign.

"But our focus will be more on dates, and making sure that students are aware of the February 6 rally coming up," she said.

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VIPIRG

Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group Annual General Meeting Feb 12, 2002, 7:30 pm in the Grad Lounge. Election of Directors: Feb. 12 2002, 8 am - 4 pm in SUB foyer & 7 - 8 pm at the AGM

All VIPIRG community members and UVIC undergrads who have not collected a refund are members in good standing and eligible to vote in both the AGM and election.

Agenda:

- Ratification of the Chair
- Approval of VIPIRG's financial statements
- Review of the year's activities at VIPIRG
- The following Bylaw changes have been proposed (text to be changed/added is underlined).

Change Bylaw 2 (2)(a) from "Individuals who are not UVIC undergraduate students may become an Associate member of the Society by paying an annual fee equivalent to that of ordinary members. Membership may be purchased during the months of January, June or September"

To: "Individuals who are not ordinary members may become an Associate member of the Society by paying an annual fee equivalent to that of ordinary members."

Change Bylaw 8(4)(c) from: "The Treasurer shall:

(i) keep financial records, including the books of account."

To: "The Treasurer shall:

(i) ensure accuracy of financial records, including the books of account."

Change Bylaw 5 (3)(c), and Bylaw 5(3)(d) from: 5 (3)(c) A Director's positions may be declared vacant by a 75% resolution of the Board if, based upon evidence contained in a written submission to the Board, the Board finds that Director to have been actively working against the purposes of the Society.

5(3)(d) Where the Board takes action under Bylaw 5(3)(c):

(i) the Board shall give to the Director in question at least 24 hours notice of the date, time and substance of the meeting and of the Director's right to make submissions on the issue"

To: 5(3)(c): "Directors may be recalled by seventy-five percent (75%) resolution of the Board.

5(3)(d) Where the Board takes action under Bylaw 5(3)(c):

(ii) the Board shall give to the Director in question at least 2 days written notice of the date, time and substance of the meeting and of the Director's right to make submissions on the issue."

- New business

Vote! for directors of the VIPIRG Coordinating collective

Feb 12, 2002 Polling from 10 am – 4 pm in the SUB Foyer and from 7-8 pm at the AGM in the Grad Lounge

All members are eligible to vote, or run for a seat on the collective. For information on running for a position as director, contact Stacy Chappel at 250.472.4558 or director@vipirg.ca

Deadline for nominations: January 25, 4:30 pm.

EDITORIAL

Tuition or not tuition

Can you afford to pay $4000 a year to go to UVic?

For the first time in years there is a very real possibility that the cost of getting a university education in B.C. will increase.

Since the mid-1990s tuition fees in B.C. have been frozen, and last September a five per cent tuition fee reduction kicked in. While other provinces in Canada offloaded federal funding cuts onto students (tuition doubled in Ontario and Alberta), the B.C. NDP government increased post-secondary spending.

But last May the NDP went down in a ball of fire, with Gordon Campbells' Liberals promising "a new era of hope and prosperity for all British Columbians."

Eight months later, $1.5 billion in provincial revenue has been cut to fund tax cuts for corporations and the rich. Minimum wage workers have had their pay cut by 25 per cent, from $8 to $6 per hour, while cabinet ministers' salaries were increased. Healthcare and transit workers have had their democratic right to free collective bargaining stripped away. A moratorium on grizzly bear hunting has been lifted, new parks are threatened and oil rigs (and spills) may soon decorate our beautiful coast.

Government ministries face funding cuts and layoffs in the range of 30 to 50 per cent. The Ministry of Advanced Education has had its funding frozen and a $40 million science building planned for UVic was scrapped in the first months of Liberal goverance.

In the weeks ahead, education minister Shirley Bond will announce the future of tuition policy in B.C. Rumours of an 80 per cent fee hike over two years are circulating.

University funding comes down to choices. Governments could choose to tax businesses and the wealthy in order to provide necessary social services to citizens. Or government parties of business could choose, like the BC Liberals, to reward those who bought their election and increase inequality in our society (effectively offloading education costs onto students).

European countries such as Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany and Greece have made the choice to make university education tuition-free, providing sufficient public funds to maintain quality.

UVic's president Dr. David Turpin also has a choice to make. He can choose to show leadership and a commitment to social justice and take a vocal stand against any increase in user fees. Or he can repeat his performance as vice-president academic at Queen's University and allow annual tuition to soar above $4000 for undergrads and $25,000 for some graduate programs.

The Liberal budget will not be brought down until mid-February. Between now and then, every UVic student, employee, faculty member and administrator must choose if they are willing to stand up and defend the principle of access and secure public funding for the university.

Altering the course of a profit-mad, amoral government is no small task. But the UVic community cannot accept cuts to access and funding without a fight.

Welcome to the Asper reading regime

It's bad enough that they own just about every television station and newspaper in Canada. In a bid for media control that is unprecedented in world history, let alone in a western (so-called) democratic nation, the Asper family are imposing blanket editorial control on reporters and editors in their Canwest-Global chain.

And you thought Conrad Black was bad. Now don't get us wrong. He was bad in many ways. But at least he had two goals: make a lot of money and own a respectable newspaper chain. He knew it just wouldn't jive with readers and advertisers to be a puppet master behind the scenes working the editorial strings. His controls were more subtle, and likely more benign.

The Aspers will now ship editorials out of their Winnipeg head office three times a week for all their papers from our *Times Colonist* to the St. John's *Telegram*. Morale and quality of work is toppling in newsrooms across the country.

The Aspers atop their media empire (the *National Post*, 14 major metropolitan newspapers, 126 smaller papers and Global Television) are calling shots and rolling heads. And they can, without hesitation. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission approved the takeover of the Southam chain last year, no strings attached.

The Aspers are notorious Liberal Party supporters with close ties to the Prime Minister.

Remember Shawinigate? Do you think we'll be hearing of any more of scandalous backroom deals out of Ottawa? Just ask Lawrence Martin, the celebrated Ottawa Citizen columnist who Canwest canned last year, some argue because of his critical view of Chrétien and his government. The move sent a chilling message to reporters across the chain: Tow the party line or be terminated.

It doesn't stop there. The Aspers are also known as anti-CBC and vehemently pro-Israel (all editorials concerning events in Israel must be approved by head office). They also support tax breaks for the rich and the privatization of healthcare. You can bet the Aspers will tag-team in new and unprecedented ways with uncle Chrétien to cram homogenous crap down our throats.

The latest martyr for a more free press was Stephen Kimber, a veteran *Halifax Daily News* writer and director of the journalism department at the university of King's College.

Kimber wrote an editorial last week criticizing the Aspers heavy-handed newsroom control. The column was pulled by his superiors before the paper went to press.

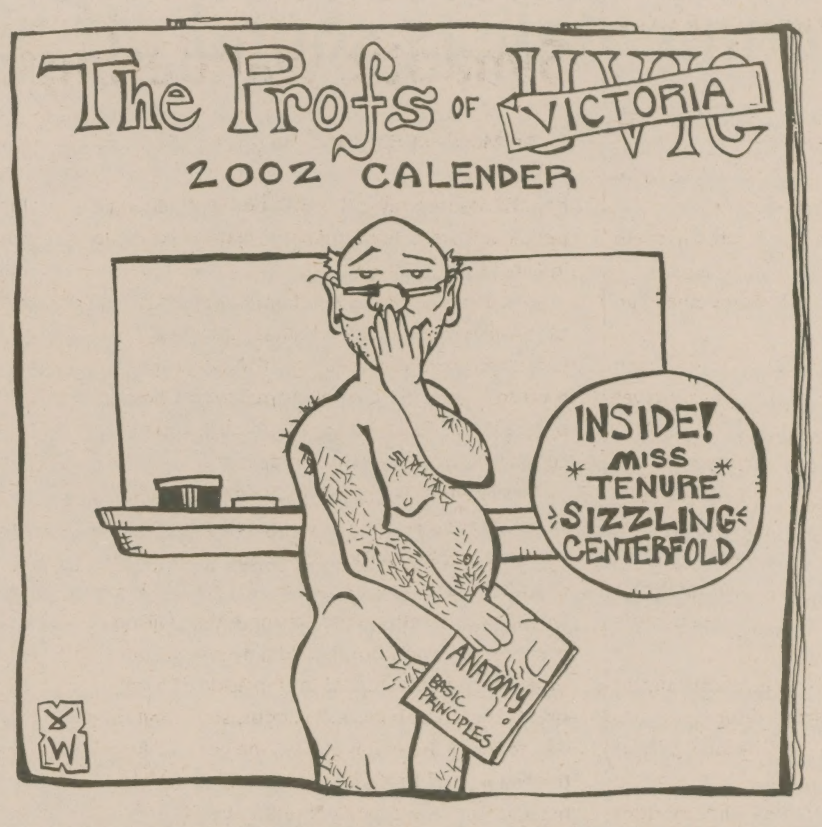
Kimber quit. He saw the spiking of his article as a clear sign the Aspers wouldn't tolerate dissent and decided they were not the sort of bosses he could work for.

Do we live in a democracy?

Some readers, writers and thinkers in this country believe that democracy comes out of the free flow of debate. Don't look to the *Times Colonist* or the *National Post* to provide you with that. They'll be writing whatever their owners tell them.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: martlet@uvic.ca



SOAPBOX

Happy New Year from the B.C. Liberals

by Kevin Groves

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Seasons Greetings, and Joyeux Noel, Happy Layoff, and Merry Private Industry, A Grim Budget, and Meaningless Tax Cuts to you all.

You might be wondering why I've decided to take such a cynical tone as we step gingerly into the futuristic year that is 2002. When do we get those flying cars that I keep hearing about anyway?

Over my relaxing holiday spent with family, friends and the Simpsons marathon I watched with my brother one long winter's night, I made a point of keeping track of the activities our friends in government have been up to in the last month or so.

What I observed didn't do much to make my holiday a joyous one and would have made even the most reasonable person's face scrunch up tighter than the Grinch swallowing a not so sweet pink grapefruit.

Don't take my word for it, though. Take a look for yourself.

Fact: As of Jan 1, British Columbians pay the lowest rate of personal income tax in Canada on their first $60,000 of income.

Opinion: Did you notice? I didn't, but then when you're making the government's training wage of six dollars an hour it's hard to see beyond the haze of burger grease how 25 per cent of not enough makes a difference.

Fact: The BC Liberal treaty referendum asks 16 questions about whether British Columbians think the treaty process is fair for all.

Opinion: Ooh Ooh! Let's see if we can find a 17th way to tell those freeloading Indians that they should get the hell off land that rightfully belongs to the province. Maybe we can come up with an essay question.

Fact: Last month the BC Liberals heard an independent report discussing the privatization of BC Ferries, and replacing many smaller runs to the Gulf Islands with bridges.

Opinion: We'll have to buy harmonicas when Vancouver Island becomes a penal colony for those who can't afford skyrocketing ferry costs. Mirror sales will go up as Gulf Islanders try to force blinded tourists off the bridge and into the Georgia Strait.

Fact: 16 economists forecast a 2002 growth average of 0.9 per cent. The forecasters' average rises to 3.2 per cent for 2003 and 3.4 per cent for 2004 and 2005.

Opinion: Only two of these economists come from universities, and you can bet your bottom dollar most of them come from organizations that provided large wads of cash to the BC Liberals during the election. But of course that would have nothing to do with the optimistic growth forecast in the next year.

Fact: BC Liberals cancel avalanche warnings to save $40,000.

Opinion: Well we don't have any snow down here on the island do we? And who cares if a few Northern towns are buried in the next polar ice age? They probably all voted NDP anyway.

Fact: The BC Liberals have a 'Wastebusters' website so members of this province can help "identify, report and stamp out government waste."

Opinion: Ironically enough, the site costs $115,000 a year. People in Northern B.C. can think about where the government should spend its money while they camp out under 15 feet of snow.

Fact: Massive layoffs of government employees are expected in the first months of this year. Some ministries expect to maintain peak efficiency with the majority of their personnel gone.

Opinion: Office Depot will become the newest MLA hangout as panicked deputy ministers look for scotch tape to keep the Legislature's roof from crashing down on the government's heads.

Fact: The provincial budget is set to come out on Feb 19.

Opinion: The Guinness Book of World Records will record 2002 as the year the B.C. government passed a budget that managed to do exactly the opposite of its campaign promises. Companion records will show how long it took Gary Collins to say the word "recession," and the amount of money deputy minister's are currently making.

Fact: Many critics are suggesting that British Columbia – and Canada – may need to reform the "first-past-the-post" electoral system to ensure fair representation of all points of view.

Opinion: Then we could avoid having one party arrogantly dictating policy for eternity without any meaningful opposition in the Legislature. Thank God such a thing could never happen in a paragon of democracy like B.C.

Fact: Gordon Campbell's approval rating has dropped down to just shy of 50 per cent, according to a new poll over the holiday. Many call the drop "substantial."

Opinion: Maybe there is justice in the world after all.

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contributors
jordan gowan, kristin macintosh, ab morrison-hayward, erin o'reilly, miranda post, rana phagurra, christine vopel

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INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Synaptic wanderings: cultural literacy and rubber chickens

by Ab Morrison-Hayward

Marilyn Manson says: "I wasn't born with enough middle fingers." He must know what it's like to be Indian.

Yowtz, mu K'umsawa and Bakwum namyuts. 'Wiksasixwe 'nala? Ikman, I guess...all things considered, and thanks for askin'. Nugwa'am Ab Morrison-Hayward. Ola'kala nam iksukw bakwum begwa'nem. Well, if you say so, buddy. You're certainly entitled to your own opinion.

Imagine this: two fine, upstanding, educated young gentlemen are innocently walking down the street one night. Walking the opposite way is an older lady. Normally, in a scene such as this, one would expect both parties are more than willing to share the sidewalk, but the old lady surveys the situation and opts instead to step aside into the street. She goes so far outta...oops, sorry...out of her way to avoid the two men that she veers halfway into the first lane of traffic and an oncoming vehicle honks and swerves to avoid hitting her. After passing a safe distance, the old lady steps back onto the sidewalk. An unusual situation to say the least, wouldn't you say? What could possibly force someone to decide on such an extreme course of action, I ask? Now consider this: the two men are Indians of the 21st century (one of them yours truly); the old lady, you guessed it, Caucasian. Not such a surprise now, enit? True story, I've got a million of them.

Laxwalanukwi Dzisasa, He loves them, they tell us so. 'Naxwa ganganananama...or so we're told. Oh yeah? Well, try telling that to Ms. Daisy back there. Dzalxw'idaga, my fine old WASP. Run as though yer life depended on it.

Fun Fact: In the Kwakwala language (the tongue spoken by the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations, or Kwagiulth for those pigmentally challenged), "Bakwum" is the term we use to address fellow Indians. In English (one of the so-called "founding languages"), it literally translates to "genuine man." This concludes today's lesson in Conversational Kwakwala.

CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS. This is to certify that Albert Jason Morrison-Hayward, registry #6760111901, is an Indian within the meaning of the Indian Act, chapter 27, Statutes of Canada (1985). You may now kiss my mangas. *Finder please return postage free to INAC, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H4.* Return what? The card of the Indian?

Hey, what's yer favorite month there, pilgrim? Mine's 'Magwabo'ti, mostly cuz I just like the sound of it. It means "moon round underneath." Yeah, I like that month except for one thing. Wanna guess what that is? Let's take a quick survey, shall we? By show of hands, how many Indians out there celebrate Thanksgiving? Ah, that's what I thought. My family's never done anything special for the occasion, that's just the way it's always been.

Yeah, he must know what it's like to be an Indian, pretty fly for a white guy. "I have the rage that small animals have," he says. "Being small, being animal." Okay, he didn't actually say that, I'm putting words in his sams. It was some poet, I don't remember who he was.

I declare this: Don Burnstick and Shis'ka Bob are today's true prophets. Paxa'la, that's how we say it. Yeah, Bob's got a lot to learn, but he's getting there. I think I'll have a t-shirt made up for him, it'll say: Shaman in Training. (Bob says: "I am a corporation, I am a fad, I am the evening cloud of the northland sky.") Yes, they are medicine men equipped with the healing power of laughter.

Q: Why was Ms. Daisy back there so happy? A: Ignorance is bliss. Man, she had one o' those real sour faces. Y'know those people who look like they're permanently pissed off? Like they just jumped on a bike and realized the seat was missing?

Hey, duxwidas, check this out. Nam biduw, mal biduw, yudaxw biduw bakwums. Four little, five little, six little Indians..."and he often refers to opposing players as 'The Little Scalps.'"

Fun Fact: There's a condominium complex, (hey, that reminds me. Did you ever see that episode of the Simpsons when Grandpa finds that condom on the ground? And he picks it up and says "Hmm, latex condom. Gee, I'd like to live in one of those?") at 900 Tolmie Street, right down by by Mayfair Mall. You know what it's called? The Colonial, if you can believe that.

1876: the year the Caucasian...oops, sorry, my bad...I mean the Canadian government first implemented the Indian Act. 1876: the year Custer dies for your sins.

Treaties are like mail-in rebates: there's something fundamentally wrong with them. First, we shouldn't hafta work so hard to work so hard and go through so much formality to get something back that already belongs to us. Secondly, (this isn't directly related to mail-in rebates, but since I'm on the subject) a treaty is a contract, an agreement. Therefore, in order for a contract to be valid, *both* parties should agree to the terms set, enit? I didn't agree to anything. Yes, I said it, and it is so: treaty negotiations are mail-in rebates. And what's with this Referendumb? Sixteen skill-testing questions? I wasn't born with enough middle fingers.

Well, I can see by the clock that we're almost outta time for today. Be sure to join us next time when we ask: "Hey, is the status card sold separately? Could I get that super-sized?" Until then, remember: Halakas'la. Halakas'la. It'ida'amtlan's dudakwul. Halakas'la.

STUDENT VOICE

Ladies of the night

by Jordon Gowans

I spent my New Year's celebration walking around by myself in downtown Victoria. All told, I did about an hour of walking downtown, from about 12:30 to 1:30 a.m., and then walked from downtown to my home near the university, another hour and a half of walking. I noticed that many people downtown were much more friendly than they would normally be – wishing me well and shaking my hand despite my being awkward and withdrawn. Sure, people were happy but usually people keep their happiness to themselves and their friends. I wish people could always be just as friendly as they were on that early, inebriated morning of New Year's – being nice to strangers, sharing, being more considerate. What I really enjoyed was all of the smiling young women – usually they don't look men they don't know in the face, let alone smile at them, but this was a special occasion and they were not afraid. Of course, I also noticed more bitter young men than usual (in groups and alone), and when I saw them walking towards me, I got out of their way asap. One guy I saw had a bloody, punched-in nose – maybe he got in somebody's way. There also seemed to be more prostitutes working the streets than usual – young teenage girls walking the cold, brightly lit streets or waiting on street corners all alone after midnight, often wearing revealing clothing, but disconcerted and confused. Of course, the older prostitutes are more discreet – they usually wait on street corners, or ask for cigarettes in passing, on darker and more deserted streets. Perhaps the older prostitutes no longer have the status in the prostitute community to be able to stay on the busier, more well-lit, safer streets.

A few months ago, at 2 a.m., after I had left Legends to walk home, a woman on Douglas near Hillside asked to buy a cigarette, and I said I didn't have any; then, when she was a safe distance away, she asked me if I was looking for "company," i.e. paid sex. I said no, thank you. Minutes later, on Hillside, another woman asked me for a "cigarette" after she was a safe distance away; when I said I didn't have any, she went quickly on her way. Cigarettes kill, and so do johns.

I have noticed that many girls and women often can't even look an unknown man on the street in the face without feeling fear, except maybe for a few hours on New Year's Day. I look strangers in the face almost every day without a second thought, and even when someone gives me an angry, nasty look, I just look away and ignore them, without much fear or concern. I guess what strikes me is that New Year's Day is not only the friendliest day of the year, it also may just be the annual day of bitter, violent, misogynistic men preying on women, especially the most vulnerable ones. It just might be the day when violence against prostitutes is highest. I really doubt that most people really care what happens to prostitutes, though. But I do. The lives of prostitutes are on the edge of a society that sometimes hurts its women and relegates them to being constrained, depreciated human beings.

Jordon Gowans is one of the authors of a Sociology 202 poster on violence against prostitutes that was displayed in December in the Student Union Building.

turn to page 15 for more op/ed

Revolution on the airwaves! CFUV 101.9 FM is your campus link to the latest rabble-rousers of our time. From local to international, CFUV picks up voices challenging injustice: **Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Vandana Shiva** and local activists next door.
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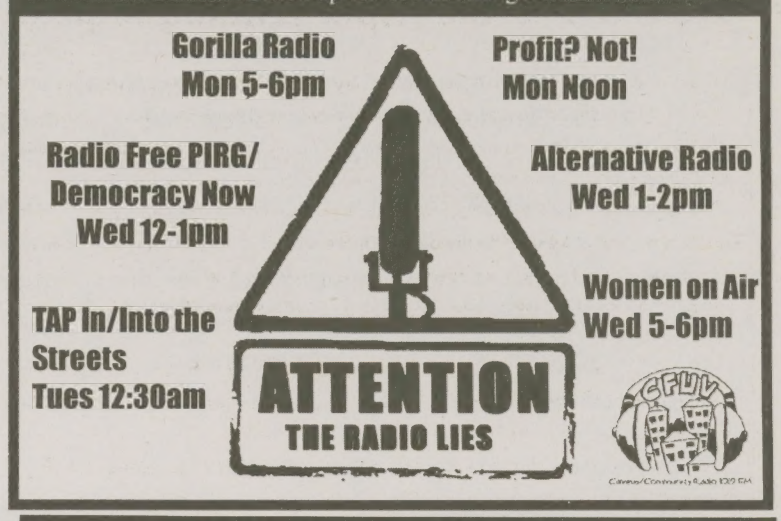

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Wednesday Jan 30 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thursday Jan 31 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

When Can I Opt Out?
JAN 2, 2002 TO JAN 31, 2002

How Do I Opt Out?
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Acceptable proof consists of one of the following:

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What happens after I Opt Out?
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The National Student Health Network

LIVING IN RESIDENCE

Real UVic life versus Hollywood

by Erin O'Reilly

When most people think of university students living in residence, they picture a million sweaty bodies gathered and carousing, beer bottles covering the floor, and chants of "toga, toga" or "chug it, chug it."

There is no doubt that this picture comes from the movies and television, where college life is always depicted as one big party.

Residence life is an important part of many students' – especially first year students' – lives. So, what really goes on behind the cement walls and dreary curtains on-campus at the University of Victoria?

"Well, there is no one big party because we are not allowed to drink in the hallways, or the common rooms or the bathrooms, so basically it's one little party crammed into one room," said first-year student Katrina Edgerton-McGhan. "And, it's not one big party because the only time we party is on Friday night and usually when we do that, we go out."

Michelle Gillert is another first year student, who lives with Edgerton-McGhanin in the Ravenhill building of the Lansdowne Complex. Gillert said that the parties in residence are not how they are portrayed in movies.

"Parties [in the movies] are always in a big, big room, with a keg and everyone dancing. [But in real life] you just go pile yourself into a tiny room and nobody moves."

Residence is always considered to be one of the easiest places to meet people.

"I think that it is really true because you are always surrounded by people and everybody needs friends, and it's really easy to get to know people," said Christina Carrick of Sanderson, another building in the Lansdowne complex.

"You just meet people right away. You move in, and people are so nice," said Romina Wachholz about Ravenhill residence. "Nobody really knows anybody and everybody wants to make friends. So, it's really a good place to be."

Rochelle Veronneau, another first-year student from Ravenhill, agrees.

"I have friends who live off campus and they haven't made as many close friends as fast as I have," said Veronneau. "Overall, there is someone here for everyone and I think that if you look long enough you'll find someone that you get along with."

But what does one do besides sitting and staring at the walls of their dorm? The residence advisors of each building and complex run several events throughout the year to ensure that the students living in residence are always having fun. These events include various dances, such as the welcome dance, the Halloween dance and the formal Christmas dance. Students can also enjoy a series of coffee houses, where students can showcase their talents in an open mike atmosphere; 'capture the flag' games in which the entire campus is used; movies in the underground; and even a residence soccer league.

"[The soccer league] is competitive, but not too competitive," said Veronneau. "Anybody can play.... It gets a lot of people out who [otherwise] wouldn't be out and doing things with other people. You get to meet more people and just have a good time."

However, some of the funniest and most entertaining moments in residence happen outside of the scheduled events.

"One time [when] I was in bed and it was 11:30 on a Tuesday night, someone broke out the Hoover [vacuum cleaner]," said Edgerton-McGhan. "[They] had a really big party and accompanied it with lots of screaming. I went there and told them to shut up. And they were like, 'oh, it's good that you told us to shut up. We were just gonna go and knock on everyones' doors and see if they wanted to hoover too.' That was pretty amusing."

Another aspect of residence life that people always question is the food served in the cafeteria and how you go about purchasing it. The cafeteria for residence students at UVic is located in the Cadboro Commons Building and consists of several outlets such as a grill, a hot meal section, a deli and a salad bar. As far as quantity of food goes, it is usually wise to go to the cafeteria during a meal time (meaning breakfast, lunch or dinner) and stock up for the times in between.

"There is enough [food] if you come during meal times, but when I'm usually the hungriest it's between [meal times],

Small rooms mean creative organization and cozy study sessions in UVic rez.

Daily mail provides comfort to students, many of whom are away from home for the first time.

and then there's nothing to eat," said Edgerton-McGhan.

Each student who lives in residence is put on a food plan, which accompanies the cost for housing. At the beginning of the year, students choose the light, medium or heartier plan to suit their appetites. When they move in, they receive a food card which stores their points and allows them to purchase meals from the cafeteria, Caps and other eateries around campus.

"I think it's a pretty good deal overall, especially if you like the food in the cafeteria," said Gillert.

Veronneau agrees and said food points make budgeting the amount of money you spend on food easier to manage.

Carrick was the only one who took serious issue with the food plan.

"They need to sell gum.... Nowhere on res can you buy gum with your food card."

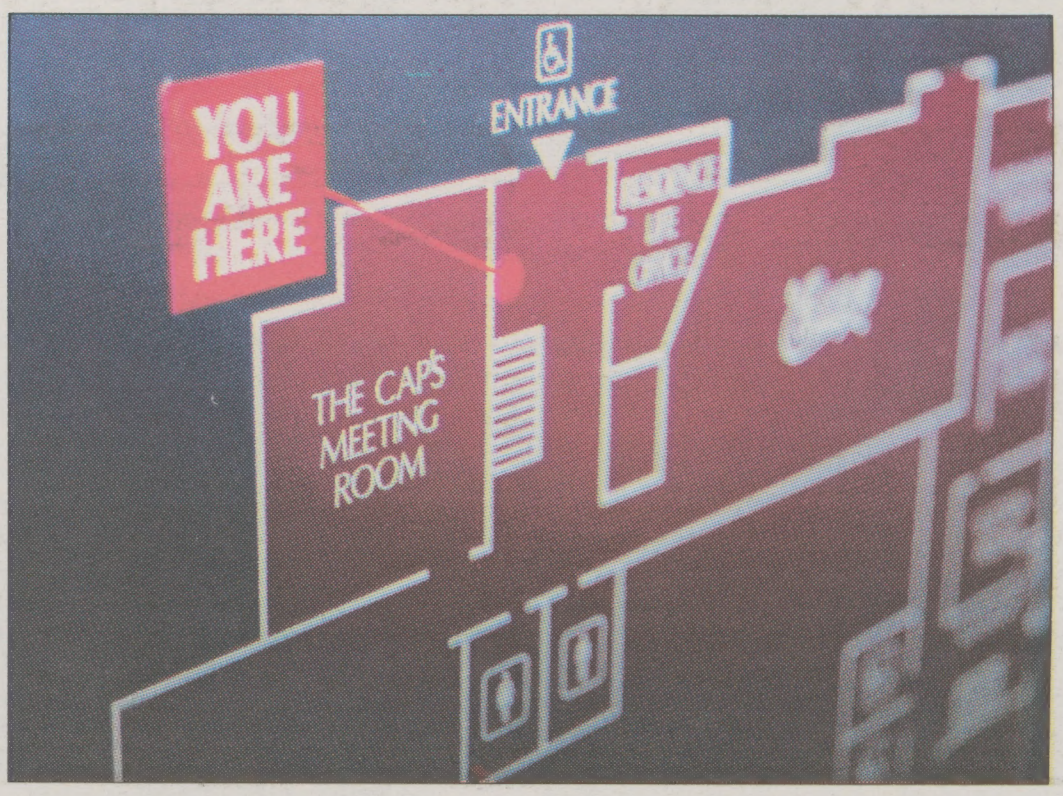
When it comes to studying there are several places around campus that offer on-campus students the opportunity to work in peace and quiet. But how much studying actually gets done? If one does choose to study in their room, is it possible to obtain a level of concentration?

Well, the library is often the best alternative, especially on weekends when the amount of energy that fills the dorm rooms is at an all-time high. It becomes nearly impossible to study on Friday or Saturday nights because most people are wandering the halls or partying or just screaming their heads off in the courtyards outside. Many students choose Sundays to study because this is when most party animals sleep, resulting in a substantial drop in the noise level.

"The only part that is annoying is when you are trying to sleep or study and there are fifteen people outside your door," said Gillert.

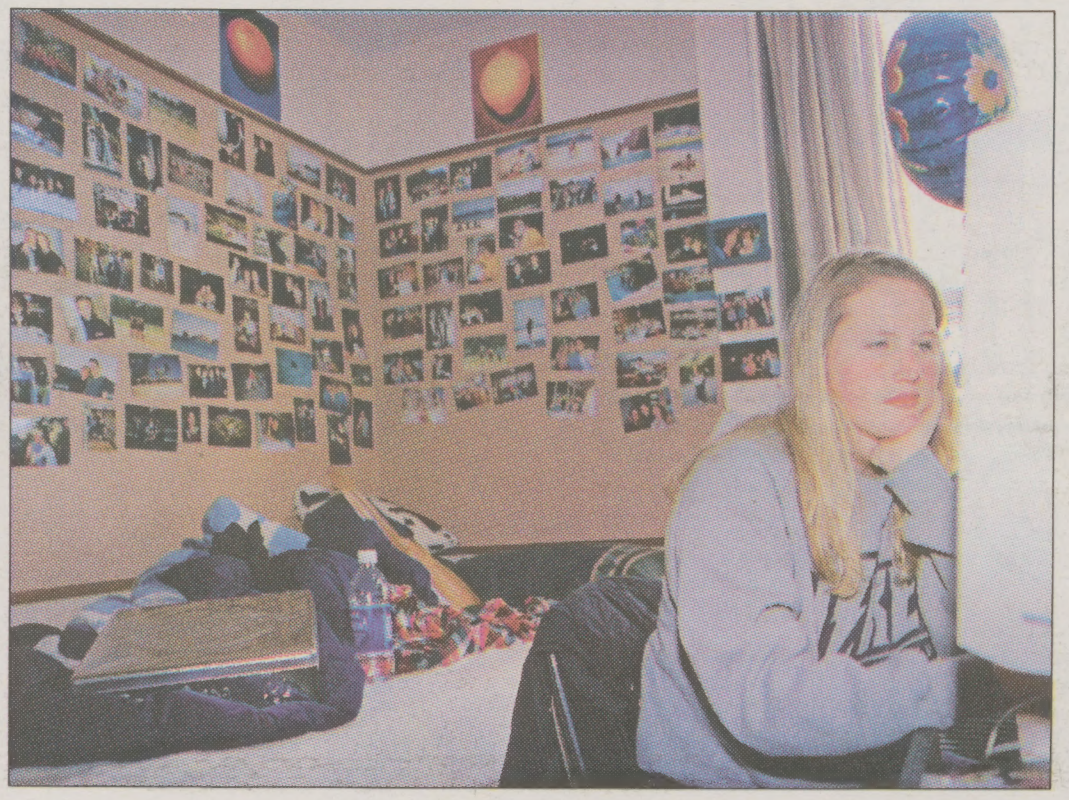
As you can see, Hollywood is really in the dark when it comes to depicting the overall life in a college residence.

As Edgerton-McGhan said: "[The movies are] completely ridiculous because we never drink that much, there are no sororities and we study all the time. So really, we're a lot more boring than Hollywood."



photos by Graham Winterbottom

Mmmmmm, mystery meat burgers!!



Life in rez is not a party all the time – here's proof that students do actually study!

Local band bringing cool and unique to Victoria music scene

by Anne Larrass

If you haven't heard about Iris yet, seize this opportunity to acquaint yourself with one of the most talented bands on the local music scene.

Founded about two years ago, Iris has played its cool and unique tunes in various Victoria clubs, such as Steamers, Lucky Bar, Vertigo and the Canoe Club, as well as several places in Duncan, sharing the stage with 54/40 and The Special Guest.

All four band members are equally committed to Iris's success and hope to eventually tour North America and Europe. Meanwhile they are gaining popularity in Victoria's music scene and recently came out with their first cd *Exit to Reality*, which will be celebrated at a cd release party at Lucky Bar on Jan. 26.

While Ellen and Jonathan Williams, lead singer and lead guitar player, wrote the foundation to each of the 10 songs, both Keith Weldrick, drummer, and Ian Bartlett, base player, contributed to the completion and perfection of the pieces.

Iris's passion for music comes through in the intricate arrangement of instruments and the harmony of the voices. Their talent and ability to produce and promote their music has enabled them to shine in Victoria's lime light on a regular basis.

"You have to make sure the demo you give the bar managers is good quality. If you put on a good show, they respect you and promote you to other bar managers," said Jonathan.

In addition to sending various bar managers their demos, they make an effort to meet with their promoters to get to know them. "It helps if they enjoy you and the music," Jonathan added.

Ellen said that when you are part of show business "it's about who you know. You've got to meet people. They've got to be encouraged. It's just like any job. You send them a demo and then you meet with them so that they can get to know you as well."

Where do they get their inspiration? People they know, situations, emotional moments. Ellen says that none of the lyrics are based on a permanent state. Rather, she will feel inspired one moment, write the song, and a few days later the song doesn't carry the same meaning for her.

"I open my mouth and [the song] comes out. It doesn't always make sense. And you go back and edit it. When I write I am in a particular mood and the song reflects my mood. Sometimes the songs are about people, about their lives. Sometimes it's about a topic or about something I was feeling."

For Ellen, writing music is a job, something she does during certain hours.

"I do the work, I get it done, I get on with the rest of my life. A song is like an assignment. I get it done and move on with my day."

Jonathan, on the other hand, hears melodies in his head all day long. He said that most of the melodies are created in an "in-between state," between waking and sleeping. He gets up at night to try a new melody on his guitar. No matter how much he plays though, he is "never finished, and it's never good enough." A true perfectionist!

His passion for music absorbs him, while Ellen sets a schedule for herself to keep her life balanced, otherwise she would lose track of life, she said. To help her stay balanced she has also been practicing Transcendental Meditation for the past seven years.

Like most musicians Ellen and Jonathan Williams have their dreams that they hope to fulfill one day.

"My dream is to play sold out theatre shows," said Ellen. "[Everybody] is waiting for the musicians to play. You feel [the crowd's] energy. In the theatre you're the focus. People are really engaged in your art. At that moment business and everything goes out the window and you are an artist. It is the most magical, wonderful feeling. It is the most rewarding thing," Ellen added.

The present goal Iris is working towards is to be signed by Network, the same label that Sarah McLaughlin and the Barenaked Ladies have signed with.

In the meantime Iris is working with promoters and radio stations to make their product more known to the west coast music scene.

"Most places will give you a chance if you present them with something that you put a lot of effort into," said Jonathan.

Their devotion to promoting their own individual style and love for music, and their fans has certainly paid back. Their most recent shows in Duncan were sold out.

If you want a taste of Iris tunes, listen to Sun FM, The Q, and Extreme 107.3, or join the band at Lucky Bar on Jan 26 to take part in their first cd release party in Victoria.

photo provided

Amelie keeps its promises

by Elianna Lev

It was about the time when Hollywood started producing films about dogs that could play basketball and theaters began charging $16.25 for a matinee that I decided to boycott the cinema. Movies were becoming way too contrived and dumbed down. My incredibly short attention span wasn't going to take it anymore.

That being said, there were always two types of films that I could appreciate: documentaries and foreign films (foreign documentaries are always quite a treat, too). Taking a real life situation (which usually involves a million hours of footage) and cutting and splicing it to pull the heart strings of viewers at just the right time takes a lot of talent (I know, my dad's an editor). When done well, documentary films can change lives, teach the viewer a whole different side of a story, and entertain.

I love foreign films because they are a wonderful way to look into another culture and place in the world. As well, they usually don't involve Tara Reid or golden retrievers that can play basketball.

Over the holidays I had the pleasure of watching two moving and inspirational films; *Amelie* and *Promises*.

Amelie, a French ditty directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet (who also did *Delicatessen* and, randomly enough, *Aliens 4*) is a quirky film about a woman who is determined to make the world and people around her better and brighter. I went with my skeptical boyfriend who also hates movies and claims to have ADD. I had been told that the film was fast-paced and that we would make it through without looking at our watches or fidgeting.

Made it we did. The film was sporadic and fragmented but really easy to fall into. The lead actress, Audrey Tatou, is so wide-eyed and adorable (or as my boyfriend put it "hot") and worth the whole price of admission. Plus, she had a great classic French wardrobe that inspires me to go to Paris just so I can shop. The colour and lighting of the film are a spectacle and on a whole you leave with a warm, wonderful feeling in your tummy. Very enchanting indeed.

On the other end of the spectrum of film was a documentary I watched on CBC called *Promises*. The film dipped into the lives of a number of children from Palestine and Israel, all with different but equally passionate views about "the other side." Over the course of four years, the filmmaker – an Israeli-born American – followed the children and developed deep trust with them. The children – who ranged from Secular Israeli twins to a young Palestinian girl whose father was a political prisoner – only lived 20 minutes away from one another. Yet it became clear in *Promises* how different their worlds are and at the same time what they all have in common: the fact that they are children.

As well as giving a face to a situation that is growing more complex over the years, *Promises* doesn't take sides and lets the viewer into the lives of the future of the Middle East. Though this film isn't going to change much, it is a glimmer of inspiration to a situation that otherwise seems hopeless.

Both these films will most definitely be nominated for Oscars (not that it should make a difference) so they'll probably be coming to Cinecenta at some point in the near future.

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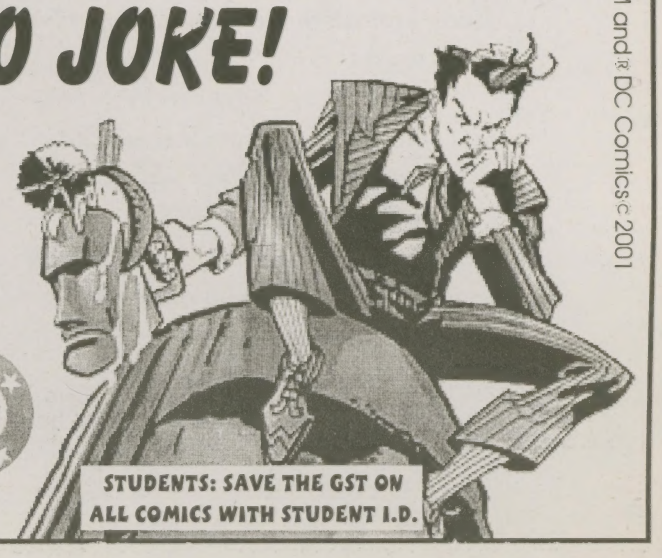


TM and ® DC Comics © 2001

Acrobats on stage at the Royal Theatre

by Lisa Helps

I'm lying on my back. My legs are up, perpendicular to my body. A book is resting on my feet. I slowly begin to attempt a mild acrobatic maneuver. I want to turn this book over with my feet, flip it, pass it from foot to foot with miraculous grace and ease, then finish my performance with a small corner of the book spinning ferociously round and round, on a small corner of my big toe. Instead, the book falls on my face, I pick it up with my hands, and try again.

Where does such inspiration come from? The National Acrobats of Taiwan. This group, which performed at the Royal Theatre on Jan. 4, comes from the National Fu Hsing Dramatic Arts Academy in Taipei. What was incredible was not just the caliber of their performance but also the scope. Not only were there "simple" acrobatic feats but a magic show and beautifully choreographed dance sequences. This genre of dramatic folk art turned variety shows blends with the deepest roots of Chinese civilization and has entertained Chinese audiences since 206 B.C.

The Victoria audience was captivated for the entirety of the performance Friday evening as the splendour of this ancient art form unfolded.

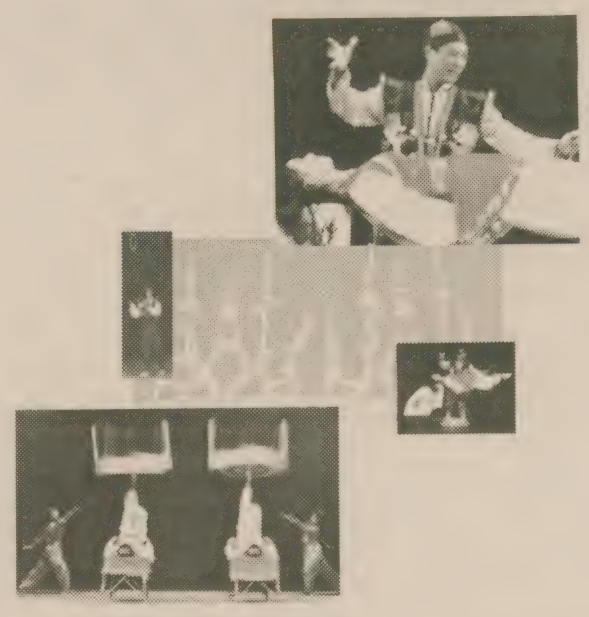
The performance began with two women on a small stage enclosed by a large glass globe. They moved magically inside as a group of dancers moved on the outside. As this performance ended the stage went black, and the music continued as a bridge through the darkness.

The lights came up and a woman was carried on a flamboyantly-coloured litter to centre stage at which point she ascended into midair supported only by two long strands of cloth attached to the ceiling. For the next seemingly timeless moments she moved this way and that, upside down and back and held poses there in midair which most of us could barely imagine attempting on a gym mat.

Next were the fire spinning daredevils who began "conservatively" by throwing fire around. As their act progressed so too did the tension in the audience. First they just spun fire sticks, then fiery hoops. Next they somersaulted through the hoops and then finally, somersaulted blindfolded through hoops of fire and cut glass – a truly astounding spectacle. And I wonder at the bravery such acts requires. Or is it sheer calculation and a little bit of faith?

There were two highlights of the show for me. The first came at the beginning of the second half when a group of five women took turns positioning themselves upside down in a chair with a built-in neck brace and, akin to my attempt, spun various objects on their feet. What was truly mind-stopping about this act was the ease and grace with which these women spun tables, parasols, a cylinder, and finally, each other.

The second highlight, which caused my friend sitting beside me to bite my hand in anticipation and suspense, involved a man piling chair upon chair upon chair upon four champagne bottles. Chairs were passed up to him one by one and as he added each one to his growing tower he managed to strike and hold a challenging pose. In the end the tower must have been made up of eight or nine chairs and was a good twenty feet above the stage floor. Most of the audience, including myself, were perched on the edge of our seats waiting, for the tower (not) to fall.



photos provided

If the Acrobats come to town again they really should not be missed. And who knows, if I keep up with my book spinning, I may even be able to be featured as an opening act!

Martlet writer spends quality time with granny

by Simon Rolston

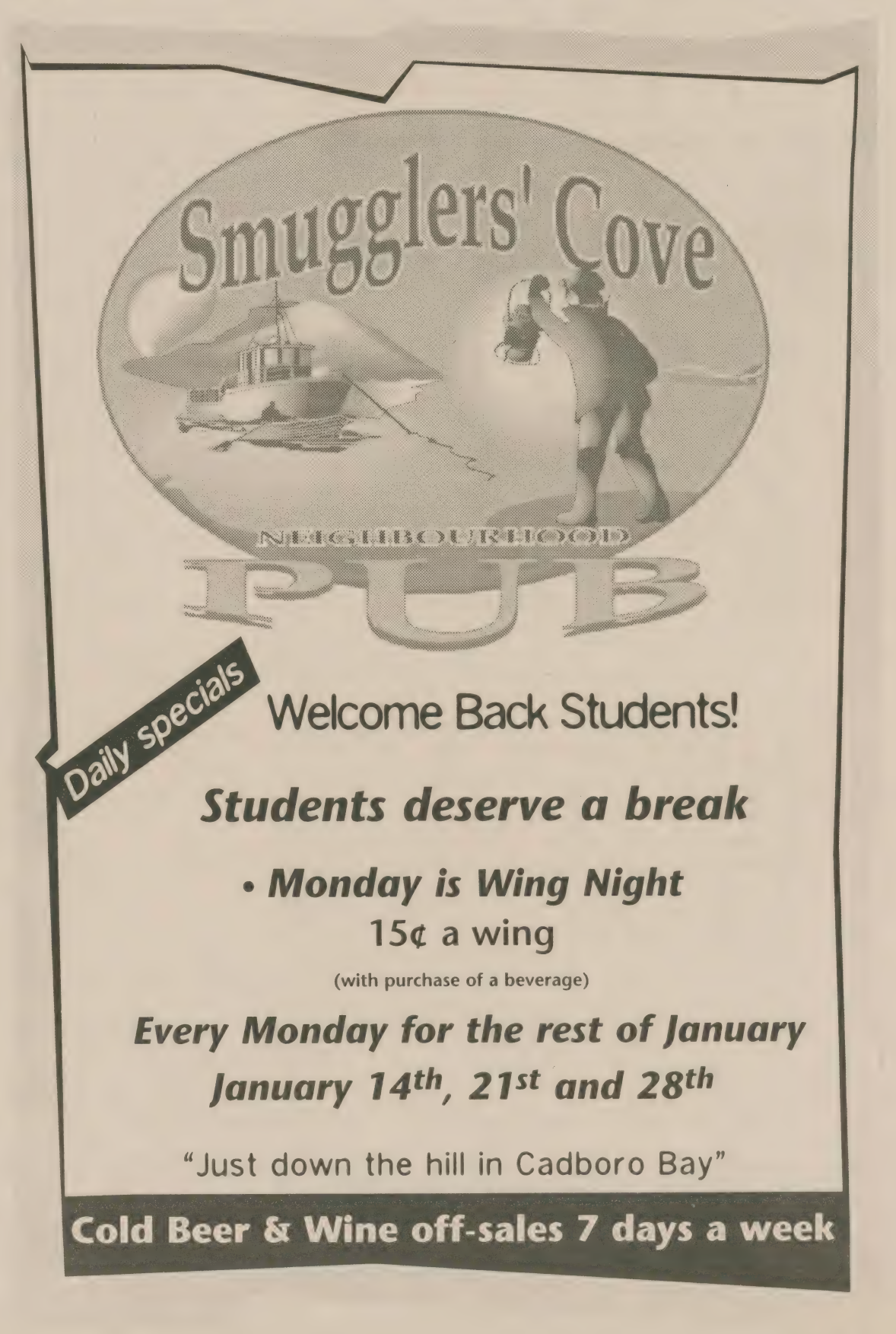
Sometimes it isn't easy to spend time with my grandmother. She can be ignorant and argumentative, loud and abrasive and even shockingly rude. Often, when annoyed at one of her outbursts, I would mutter to the affected waiter, bus driver, neighbour, or whomever, that, although she could act like Mussolini in pumps, she meant well.

Despite her at times difficult behaviour, my grandmother is still a wonderful and caring person. When I visit her small, sixth floor apartment in West Vancouver I'm treated like royalty; I feel like Prince Charles or a newly resurrected Winston Churchill who stumbled into the Blethering Place. She always stuffs me full of baked goods, steaming roasted meats, fresh veggies, homemade soup, and gallons of tea. Between meals (and numerous snacks) she launches into stories from her past. Sometimes it takes some gentle prodding (and sometimes a few glasses of sherry) but eventually childhood tales develop into stories from the war years. She tells me about the US chemical warfare expert who took her to see Glenn Miller; she laughs about a dance she had with a Prince Olaf; she tells me about the Polish pilot who used to visit her in her parents home in Scotland, the pilot who was killed over Gibraltar, who died wearing her ATA scarf. However, the most compelling stories are always the bombing stories. Her vivid descriptions of the blitz. The sound of a German bomber. The clanging of church bells. The air-raid sirens and crumpled buildings. The fear of invasion. The strange sight of a neighbour's house after it has been destroyed.

Although she can't remember simple things such as where she placed her keys (usually they're in the fridge), she can still remember the smell of a burnt pie left in the oven during an air-raid; traumatic events remain imprinted on memory like today's front page news.

At night, I often stood on her balcony and watched the glimmering lights of Vancouver. Sometimes I heard her murmuring evening prayers and I would imagine her at a younger age, before she met my grandfather, a woman of a different generation, caught between fresh, dewy memories and grinding truths.

I stood with my palms against the chill of the balcony railing, listening in vain for an almost forgotten thunder. But instead, all I could hear was the ever-present crash of waves, a distant car-horn and the crackle of a television upstairs.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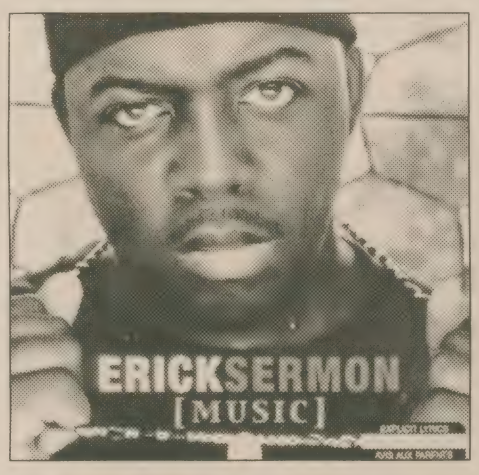


Erick Sermon
Music
j records

by Simon Glezos

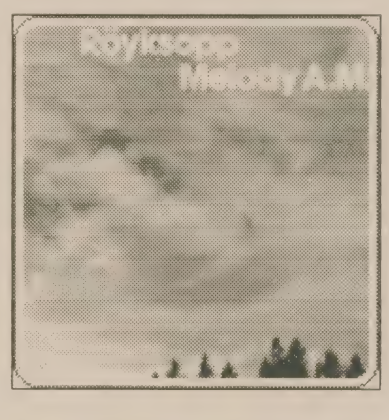
There's a sort of intractable problem with regards to guest performances on hip hop albums. Too few, and the album runs the risk of an audience growing bored with an entire album worth of one voice. Too many (and too good) and the supposed star of the album runs the risk of fading into the background. The most brutal extreme of this phenomenon is your average Puff Daddy album where nearly everyone involved with the project can rap better than the newly minted P.Diddy, including the guy who comes in to sweep up the studio after they're done.

The new Erick Sermon cd falls quite a bit short of this, mostly because Sermon doesn't even come close to the nadir of talent the almost Mr. Lopez possesses. Indeed when on his own, Sermon actually sounds pretty solid. Much of the cd is pretty enjoyable, driven by a good flow and excellent rhyme, though slightly pedestrian lyrics, but I suppose there's only so much we can ask for. The problem with Sermon is that, when placed next to guests like Redman, Sy Scott and personal favourite of mine Keith Murray, he ends up sounding a little like he's struggling to keep pace. Don't get me wrong. He is a solid rapper. However, on "Music" the album's title track, the extensive (and spectacular) samples of the incomparable Marvin Gaye make you wonder just how necessary Sermon was to the whole project.

The production provides some excellent beats, and the songs tend to range from the innocuous ("Up Them Thangs") to the exceptional (the aforementioned "Music" and "Now Whut's Up"), with a few missteps (Most notably "the Sermon" an annoying and self-centered screed about the perils of fame which just comes off as Sermon whining about how everyone's after his money). In the end however, if you're low on cash you'd probably be better served by picking up Keith Murray's latest album. Or even better, Marvin Gaye's.

Royksopp
Melody A.M.
Wall of Sound Recording

by Miranda Post



Question: What do foozball, fur-lined sexy beats and the western gateway to the Norwegian fjords all have in common? Answer: Norway's electronic posterboys Royksopp, producers of a swell album *Melody A.M.* and latest Scandinavian electro-export that hold the British media in the palm of their mittened hands.

Torbjorn Brundtland and Svein Berge, are the duo behind the moniker, Royksopp or "Foozball" in Norwegian. This duo started making electronic music in high school while in Bergen, western Norway's gateway to fjord sightseeing. Denying the metal guitar/head banging music trend of their peers in the early 1990s, Brundtland and Berge started toying with electronic musical gadgets. They invented a monolith that combines drum machines and synthesizers.

Since then the pair concocted *Melody A.M.* for Wall of Sound Recordings. The album is one of my favourite 2001 Christmas gifts, thanks to a good friend in Norway. A combination of poppy-acid-jazz and funky chill-out tunes, Brundtland and Berge guide the listener through 45 minutes of addictive electro-bliss.

The BBC and The Guardian both make allusions to the Royksopps' icy origins but perhaps what's more illusory on *Melody A.M.* is the influence of Royksopp's idols, classical composer Eric Satie and arty-porn producer Francis Lai. Despite Royksopp's citizenship this music is warm, sexy stuff, kind of like making out in parkas and mukluks. The string-heavy, angel-kissed composition of "In Space" lands like a water drop rippling outward in cuddly loops. "So Easy" reminds me of Aphex Twin on a valium/prozac bender tickling a Clintonesque/Parliament guitar. The distorted, electrified vocals of "Poor Leno" can hold its own on any dance floor, in any temperature in Ibiza or Oslo.

Then there's my fave "She's So." The tentative lead vocal, complete with sweet little accent, verbally hums about his girl. "Brave men tell the truth, the wisemen's tools are analogies and puzzles, the women holds her tongue knowing silence will speak for her, will speak for her," followed by layers of synth-bleeps and a snappy snare bassline is reminiscent of what a 21st century Men Without Hats could sound like.

Royksopp are ones to watch, or rather, listen to. They've opened for Garbage in Oslo, played drum pads with their noggins at the Big Chill Winter Festival at Ocean in Hackney and warmed up the crowds for Orbital at the Brixton Academy, in Brixton. They share the Wall of Sound Recordings roster with biggy crossover acts like Les Rhythmes Digitales and Propellerheads. Find the album, put it in your stereo on repeat and I guarantee you won't be disappointed. I haven't been since about Dec. 25.

Angie Stone
Mahogany Soul
j records

by Simon Glezos

Angie Stone's new cd *Mahogany Soul* is worthy of not only your money, but your time and effort as well. The backing instrumentals themselves are worth the price of admission (though bear in mind that reviewers get our cds for free, so there's only so much accuracy I can promise in that statement). Smooth rolling soul grooves that wouldn't be out of place in the above mentioned Marvin Gaye, are laid against some more modern hip hop beats.

But of course the real fireworks of the album are Stone's vocals, powerful and beautiful, bringing to mind the best of Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin and any other popular black female singer of the past 70 years. Low and sensuous, she provides subtle shadings to impassioned lyrics, about, you know, love and stuff (I'm not much of a lyrics guy). Though capable of some impressive musical flights of fancy she thankfully uses them sparingly to contrast with solid delivery throughout the rest of the album (a pet peeve of recent years has been the proliferation of 'diva's' in the Christina Aguilera/Mariah Carey/Celine Dion vein playing "let's see how many octaves I can sing in at one time").

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New Year's, NBA style

by Iain McLetchie

In what has become a New Year's tradition of sorts, I once again had the pleasure of voyaging down to the beautiful Rose City of Portland, Oregon, in order to celebrate and watch an NBA game with friends.

Unlike the last few years, in which we've had the, uh, good fortune to watch the Blazers smack around (in no particular order) patsies such as Golden State, Chicago, and the former Vancouver Grizzlies, we finally got our act together. Yes, tickets to see Vince Carter and the Toronto Raptors had been procured.

Needless to say, we were ready and raring to go by the time we got to the arena. Early so as to watch the man shoot teardrop jumpers and ham it up with the Raptors bench crew.

But before we get to the story, here's a little background information. Portland has only one major professional sports franchise – the Blazers – and the team is loved by the city. Well, at least until this season. This year's team is an odd and completely non-gelled unit of individuals: a group of men without a pure leader and without the heart and guts to put out a good effort every night. The result? A team below .500, surprising for a team loaded with natural talent.

In fact the Dec. 24 issue of Sports Illustrated, the premiere sports magazine in North America, had as its lead article a scathing look at the Blazers and their complete disregard for Portland fans. Do the Blazers care?

Not so much, as third-year guard Bonzi Wells made plainly clear in the aforementioned article when he was quoted as saying, "We're not really going to worry about what the hell (the fans) think about us. They don't really matter to us. They can boo us every day, but they're still going to ask for our autographs if they see us on the street. That's why they're fans and we're NBA players."

Ouch. Someone give Bonzi a lesson in manners and decency please, before the Fun Police come to take him away.

So the stage was set for our latest foray into the strange world of NBA basketball. What made the night all the more compelling was the chance to sit directly behind a slobbering drunk and directly in front of a loud, know-it-all who didn't know it at all.

Right from the tip-off, which the Raptors won, and until the first hoop, which the Raptors scored, our loud friend commented on how terrible the Blazers were. Every open shot they passed up was met with a "what the f**k are you doing?", every poorly-chosen shot was given an "Oh, no!" and every turnover was given a "You make $6 million to do that?" Our man even went so far as to call the game as it progressed.

"That, my friends, is known as a carry."

"That, my friends, is known as a charge."

Unfortunately for everyone within his audio range, he was usually completely out to lunch, but completely unaware of that fact. And as the match progressed the Raptors pulled away, building a comfy 15-point cushion which the Blazers appeared to be nowhere near lessening, a fact the fans recognized with sporadic fits of booing. At least the lad behind us decided to keep quiet.

By halftime, the fans were restless and angry and the drunken chap in front of us had become a favourite of the Alcohol Monitor, who the former described as "my monitor." When the Blazers came out for the second half, our inebriated chum decided to heckle the aged and oft-travelled Chris Dudley, who subbed in at centre for the Blazers. Dudley proved to be as ineffective as the drunk's jeers, and both soon found themselves removed forcibly from the game; Dudley by his coach and the drunken lout by a posse of burly attendants.

The Blazers did eventually put together a five-point spurt that closed the scoring margin to eight and led to a Toronto timeout. For once, the fans had something to cheer about and did just that, urged on by two monstrous digital clapping hands and a "Noise-o-meter" on the scoreboard.

The joy was short-lived though, as Carter dropped an effortless three-pointer followed by a steal and a mid-range jumper immediately after the timeout. So much for the comeback, and with nine minutes left in the match, the boos came out in full bore cascading from the nosebleeds like a waterfall, hitting full velocity when not a single Blazer made the slightest attempt to corral a loose rebound, leading to a Raptor dunk.

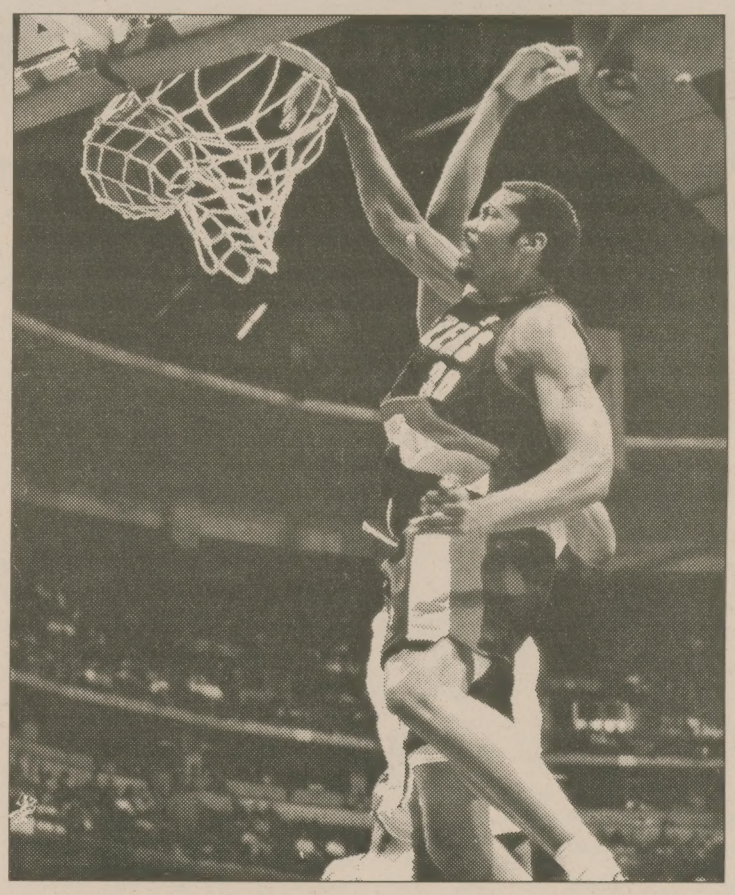

photo provided

And the game continued as such, with most of the arena noisily leaving early in order to miss the post-game rush from the Rose Garden. What were they going to miss? Another lazy turnover, another bad shot, another temper tantrum on the court?

So on the train ride back to our car, we sat in complete silence. No one cared and no one even wanted to chat about the Blazers and their problems.

Maybe it's a good thing the Grizzlies left Vancouver.

Vikes play small ball to steal one from Brandon

by Iain McLetchie

With Christmas dinner still warm in their bellies and the taste of eggnog still rolling around their mouths, the UVic men's basketball squad began the second half of the CIS season by winning their annual tournament and splitting a two-game series last weekend with the fifth-ranked Brandon University Bobcats.

Coach Guy Vetrie was impressed with his squad's effort, particularly in Brandon.

"Going into Brandon, even playing well with a full squad, is very difficult," Vetrie said, alluding to the injuries the Vikes were hammered with in the first half. Forward Ross McDonald and Nate Ashmead are likely out for the season with injuries while point guard Shawn Doherty missed plenty of time with turf toe. Sure enough, once the team had a chance to recuperate injuries popped up again.

"We had a lot of injuries in the first half of the year, a lot," Vetrie said. "We go into Brandon as healthy as ever and then [forward] Jason Crawford blows out his ankle during our first practice.... We've had enough injuries for five years, let alone one year."

Despite the loss of Crawford, who will likely miss two weeks, the team stunned the Bobcats in the second match of the series behind a 27-0 run in the second half; a run which completely turned the game's momentum around.

UVic guards Keith Bustard and Orlando Fergusson helped the team considerably on the boards, as both grabbed 14 rebounds. Fergusson also added 16 points.

The team's play left Vetrie astounded.

"This team amazes me," he said, "we were without three very good forwards and had to play small ball with four out of our five players as guards...and we beat one of the best teams in the country, who are tough to beat at any time."

The strong play of post Sandy Bisaro, who was named MVP at the UVic tourney, and 6'3" forward Jason Tiffin, who played extremely well despite giving up precious inches in the paint, merited a mention from their coach.

"We played with two forwards," Vetrie stated. "Sandy and Jason Tiffin did marvellous considering the circumstances."

The win against Brandon, which vaulted the Vikes into 10th in CIS national rankings, was also only the second loss in 20 years that Brandon has suffered on its home court, according to Vetrie.

However, things will only get more difficult for the team in the next couple of days, as they play host to the Alberta Golden Bears, the top-ranked team in the nation. With only two forwards available, the team will have its work cut out with 6'9" post Robbie Valpreda.

"He's a legit three-point threat," said Vetrie of Valpreda. "Probably one of the best on the team."

Each of the Bears' starters has sprung for over 20 points in a game this season, so there is a lot of depth for UVic to contend with, especially with a depleted squad.

"Alberta has lots of tools," Vetrie said, "and we're undermanned, so we need other players to step up."

Game times are at 6:30 p.m. for the women and 8:15 p.m. for the men Friday and Saturday Jan. 11 and 12 at McKinnon gym.

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Blowouts and battles of 2001

The Martlet's sports writers present part one of their recap of last year's best moments in UVic sports.

compiled by *Martlet* Sports staff

Like sand through the hourglass, these are the days of our lives. No, wait. That's a soap opera. This is a sports article. You can see my confusion.

The article will have something to do with time, though, so you can keep the image of the hourglass in your head a while longer. It's a new year. It's time for reflection.

When you think back at the major events of the past year, you probably think about bowl games, baseball playoffs and, of course, Michael Jordan. No, just kidding.

Sporting events ring in pretty low on the scale of memorable happenings from 2001. From any year, really, but the past one more than most.

But you and I both forget, this is a sports article. We're here to talk about the best and worst moments in sports. The highs, the lows. The wins and losses. All that.

So here are a few of the most memorable and amusing sporting moments from the past 12 months as reported by the men and women of *the Martlet* sports staff.

January 25

On their first road trip of the new millennium, the Vikes' basketball squads faced tough Saskatchewan sides looking to play the role of spoiler.

Former Martlet Sports Editor Jeremy Shragge reported the UVic women ran into a hot Husky team on Friday night and dropped only their fourth game of the season, 83-72.

"Saskatchewan played what their coach thought was probably the best they ever played; almost a perfect game," said UVic head coach Kathy Shields.

UVic came out the following night to destroy the, according to Shragge, "just-returned-to-the-reality-of-their-mediocrity Huskies", 85-52.

The men, on the other hand, won both games in the set, improving their overall record 11-5 and keeping within three points of the Canada West leading Alberta Bears.

"I'm not concerned about the Bears right now," head coach Guy Vetrie said after the game. "I think the chances of us catching the Bears...na, some weird things would have to happen in the conference for that to occur."

(Note: this is foreshadowing).

February 1

In the annual Courtney Walls rugby match, the Vikes defeated the aptly named Friends of Courtney 38-31.

But this wasn't the full story. In fact, the outcome of the game was secondary, almost immaterial.

The annual match honours former Vike Courtney Walls, who was murdered Dec. 12, 1997. It features the current UVic squad against former Vikes, who make up the Friends.

"The Courtney Walls rugby game wasn't about winning or losing; neither was it about showing how good of an athlete one is or stroking one's ego," wrote Iain McCletchie. "It was about using sport to make the world a little better. And that is an unqualified good."

February 1 (again)

Sports Editor Craig Battle, in an opinion piece about the National Football League's much-overhyped Super Bowl, commented on the loss of heroes in sports and took pot shots at the woeful quarterbacks from both the Baltimore Ravens and New York Giants. For fun.

"I remember throwing my pint-sized 49ers football around in the front yard, imagining I was Joe Montana and my buddy Paul was Jerry Rice. I'd tell him to go deep (every time) and he'd do a touchdown dance (every time).

"But now what are kids supposed to do? Imagine they're Trent Dilfer and heroically try not to screw up? Or Kerry Collins, and heave the ball at random kids passing in the street?"

February 15

In the much-hyped "Battle for First Place," which took place in McKinnon Gym, the men's Vikes basketball squad took the Alberta Bears two straight to take the Canada West Championship.

The Vikes, who won their eighth and ninth consecutive games, defeated the Bears by 22 points on Friday night, but needed a buzzer-beating three-pointer to take the second and deciding game.

"I would have liked a repeat of last night," Vetrie said after the game. "[Alberta Head Coach Don Horwood] would've probably liked a repeat of last night only the other way around."

March 1

UVic swimmers emerged from CIAU national championships in Guelph, Ontario with a total of 10 medals, including two gold, two silver and six bronze.

The women's team placed fourth overall while the men secured fifth.

"I was actually surprised that we came fourth on the women's side," said head coach Peter Vizsolyi. "The calibre of competition was a lot higher than in previous years."

Standouts included breaststrokers Jason Hunter and John Stamhuis, who each won gold and silver medals at the meet. Hunter took gold in the 100-metre breastroke and Stamhuis earned gold in the 200-metre event.

March 22

Although Sports Editor Iain McCletchie missed the actual day, the slacker, he did write a wish list to the famed St. Paddy to exercise his powers over professional sport.

Amongst several shots at Eric Lindros, including a wish that the former Philadelphia Flyer forward "forever rot in Hades for deciding not to use [his] amazing talents, and in the process pissing on the childhood dreams of millions of fans," McCletchie requested that NFL teams stop underestimating Doug Flutie and that the NHL would adopt a profit sharing plan.

He also wished that Vince Carter would stay in Canada, and St. Paddy granted the wish last summer.

"I wish sports writers would quit describing athletes as 'misunderstood,'" McCletchie wrote. "They're not. They're millionaire jerks. Plain and simple."

(Note: I seem to be noticing a pattern.)

March 29

At the 2001 annual Vikes Athletics Awards Banquet, held March 22 at the Empress Hotel, three UVic athletes walked off with top honours and several more were recognized for achievement and service.

Jeff Williams (rugby), Andrea Rushton (field hockey) and Lindsay Brooke (basketball) shared the Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award. Rushton was also named CIS player of the year.

Swimmer Jason Hunter took home the Robert T. Wallace Shield for Vikes rookie of the year, while assistant swimming coach Albert Burgund received the Martlet Athletic Award (no relation) for outstanding contribution to the athletic program.

Chris Craveiro (soccer) and Anna Grimes (field hockey) shared the coveted University Sport Award for outstanding achievement during the current season.

April 5

Another former Sports Editor, Dena vanDalfsen, traced her relationship with figure skating back to its roots during the World Skating Championships held in Vancouver last year.

"I began figure skating in 1983. I was three years old," vanDalfsen wrote. "I worked through all the badges: pre-beginner, beginner, elementary, basic, novice.

"I also graduated from skating outfits knitted for me by my grandmother to fluorescent yellow spandex in 1989. I was the height of fashion."

The writer, accompanied by her mother and sister, attend the gala event on the last day of the competition. Elvis Stojko, Michelle Kwan, Evgeni Plushenko and Canadian pairs gold medallists Jamie Sale and David Pelletier all graced the ice during the event.

However, not all went smoothly.

"Kwan's performance, as my mom put it, was lacklustre."

graphic by Joanna Wong

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Stress management: discover sources and coping. Next Victoria workshop: **Feb. 9. Student price: $59 + GST** 1-866-300-0025. Info: www.Walsh-Seminars.com

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STUDENT VOICE

The war for oil

by Rana Phagurra

The Bush administration has made clear that it has no interest in an investigation of the events surrounding the terrorist attacks. Perhaps it is because an open trial might reveal that officials at the highest levels of the US government knew that a major terrorist attack was under way and made no serious effort to prevent it. If so, the political motive can be inferred: they permitted an attack to go forward, whether they knew its full dimensions or not, in order to provide the necessary pretext for carrying out a right-wing agenda of military intervention abroad and attacks on democratic rights at home.

The news media typically never shows the actual footage of a tragedy out of respect for the victims. But this time, they went ballistic. The media coverage was well orchestrated. They wanted the public to react and violently so. They wanted the public to draw an imaginary line connecting Sept. 11 with Pearl Harbor. As a result, the US government has been handed a *carte blanche* to commit acts of genocide and piracy abroad without fear of public protest at home.

Oil. It is the blood of industry. It is black. The blood that is shed in order to secure this strategic commodity, however, is red. The ruling class sees the world as a checkerboard. As far as the victims of the Twin Tower bombing go, well, in war, as in chess, you have to be willing to sacrifice pawns in order to win. That is the mentality of the ruling elite in America. Their biggest concern is the pursuit of power, not human welfare.

The US ruling elite has a firm grip on Mid-Eastern oil supplies, by virtue of the fact that the dictatorships of that region are heavily dependent upon the US military presence to ensure the survival of their regimes. That's the way the ruling elite in America operates. American bankers, aided by US gunboats, set the world oil prices.

Oil profits are siphoned off by Arab dictators, and minus their cut, are funneled into the British and US economies. As a consequence, the majority of Arabs in the Middle East live under conditions of poverty bordering on starvation. They don't get to share in the oil wealth. In contrast, even though the US has slightly less than five per cent of the world's population, its share of world oil consumption in the 1990s averaged around 23 per cent.

Here, in North America, our dependency upon oil is a direct result of Anglo-American Imperialism. However, given that oil is a finite commodity, the North American lifestyle, which is characterized by high levels of consumption, cannot last. Furthermore, expanding our living standard to all the world's people is only a fantasy. Unless there is a shift toward lower resource consumption here, arresting ecological decline worldwide is doubtful.

Estimates of when world oil production will peak range from 2010 to 2025. If and when oil prices begin to spike upwards, the effect will be dramatic on industrialized nations. The wheels of production will begin to grind to a halt, unless alternative energy supplies are found. Perhaps this "Mad Max" scenario is a deciding factor motivating the US government (and the Canadian government along with it) to move towards dictatorship. Perhaps world oil production has already peaked.

US foreign policy is drawn up in pursuit of economic interests that are concealed from the American public. If the US ruling elite really believed that bombing Afghanistan is an effective way to deter terrorism, then why didn't the British government (or the American government) ever recommend bombing Ireland, to deter the IRA? For that matter, why didn't the US government ever declare war on South Africa to end Apartheid? "The propagandist's purpose," wrote Aldous Huxley in 1937, "is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human."

The "war on terrorism" is illusory. The present war in Afghanistan, far from involving the defense of freedom, is a colonial-type war of conquest. The ruling elite in America wants to control the oil and natural gas resources of Central Asia. A government dominated by big business, in general, and big oil, in particular, is conducting the conflict.

Afghanistan offers a strategic access route to the Caspian Sea region, which harbours a lot of oil and natural gas deposits. To secure this route, the US government would like a pro-American dictatorship in Afghanistan, backed by US military power. Hence the US government intends to establish a permanent military presence in the region, just as they did in the Persian Gulf, during the Gulf War. A permanent military base in Afghanistan could also serve as a launching pad for a possible future assault on China, whose oil supply needs are growing exponentially, as the country proceeds to industrialize.

At the dawn of the 21st century Imperialism threatens mankind with a repetition on a more horrific scale of the tragedies of the 20th. With the fall of the Soviet Union, the American ruling elite finds itself a hypermilitary power on the world stage, with no clear adversary in sight. In an ironic sense, the US government needs Osama bin Laden, in order to justify its vast military expenditures and operations. They need a story to sell to middle and working class Americans.

On the domestic front, the "war" is being used as a pretext to transform America, and Canada along with it, into a police state. For example, the role of American banks in law enforcement is being altered. American bankers will now become active participants in "law" enforcement. No longer will a bank's role in a criminal investigation be merely limited to turning over information regarding suspect transactions. A banker will now have the power to arbitrarily freeze an individual's bank account by accusing him or her of being a potential terrorist. No evidence need be provided.

The ruling elite is about to be given a valuable tool to wield over political dissidents. Within the context of a cashless society, the ruling elite will have a very simple way of dealing with political dissidents. Their accounts will be frozen. In a cashless society, political dissidents will simply starve to death for lack of money with which to buy food, pay rent, or pursue legal remedy.

However, perhaps even more disturbing is the Bush administration's decision to establish (by executive order) secret military tribunals to try alleged terrorists. According to Bush's order, they can be employed against suspects who are non-citizens, with the proceedings being held in the US, abroad or even at sea. Trials conducted by these tribunals will be held in secret. This means that military prosecutors will not be required to reveal any information about the proceedings to the public. The tribunals can render sentences up to and including life imprisonment or execution.

The president will designate who is to be tried by these tribunals. The accused will have no recourse to appeal, and will be barred from seeking remedy from any US state or federal court, any foreign court or any international tribunal, such as the World Court at The Hague. This means that, on George W. Bush's directive, a suspect could be arrested, tried in a foreign country in a secret trial, and summarily executed.

These moves toward police-state rule are overwhelmingly dictated by domestic concerns, not the requirements of war. The US is afflicted by a deep social crisis. The chasm between the wealthy elite and broad layers of the population will only continue to widen under conditions of economic slump. No section of the ruling elite or either of its parties can propose any solutions to the crisis. Their only answer is repression and more repression. The measures ostensibly proposed for use against terrorist suspects are, in fact, directed against all internal opposition.

Propaganda plays the same role in a democracy that violence plays in a dictatorship. Just as democracy is a real threat to state tyranny, it is also a threat to private tyranny. Government, from the corporate perspective, is bad as long as it serves the public interest rather than the private interest. Hence, corporate propaganda seeks to undermine democracy. It began with a campaign of hysteria to confuse and benumb the population, and has been accompanied by the rapid-fire introduction of authoritarian measures that were obviously prepared in advance, but which were politically unthinkable before Sept. 11.

The New World Order is a world dominated by American military power and American corporate control over all strategic raw materials. Due to the enormous corporate control of both national media and government, true participatory democracy does not have a chance in hell of flourishing in the United States of America. At the beginning of the 21st century, the US government is, to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, a government of the Elite, by the Elite, and for the Elite. Democracy has been reduced to a puppet show.

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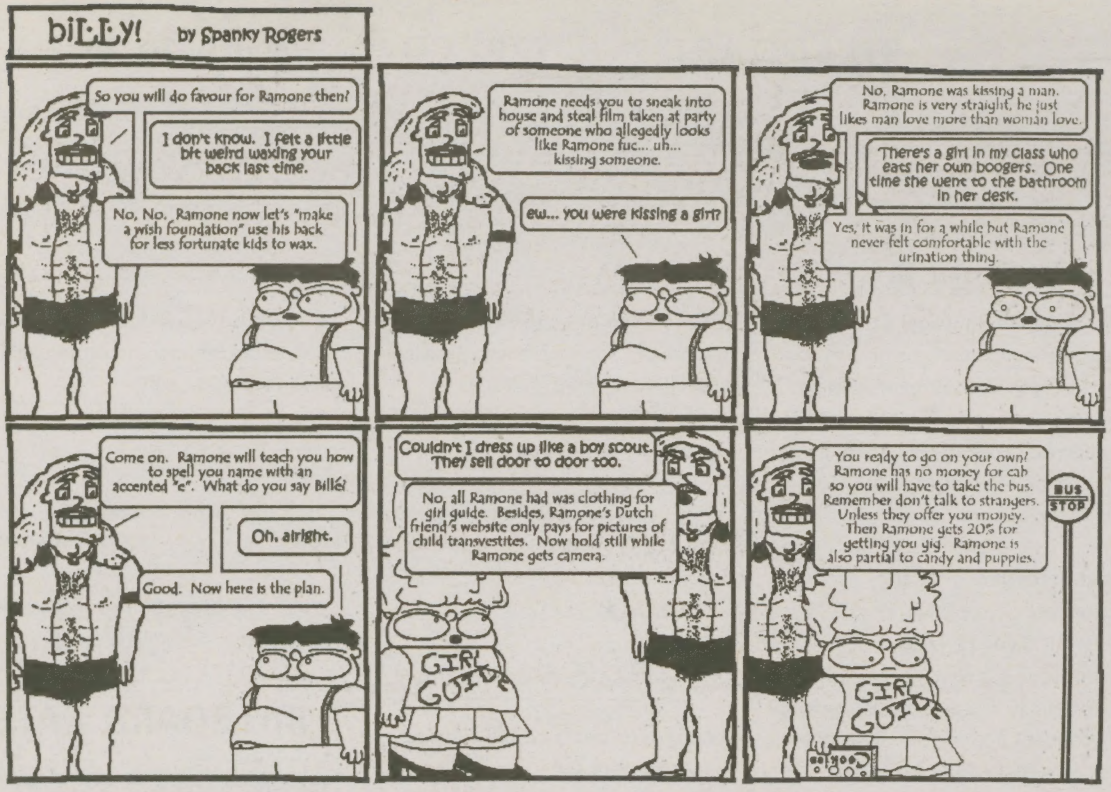
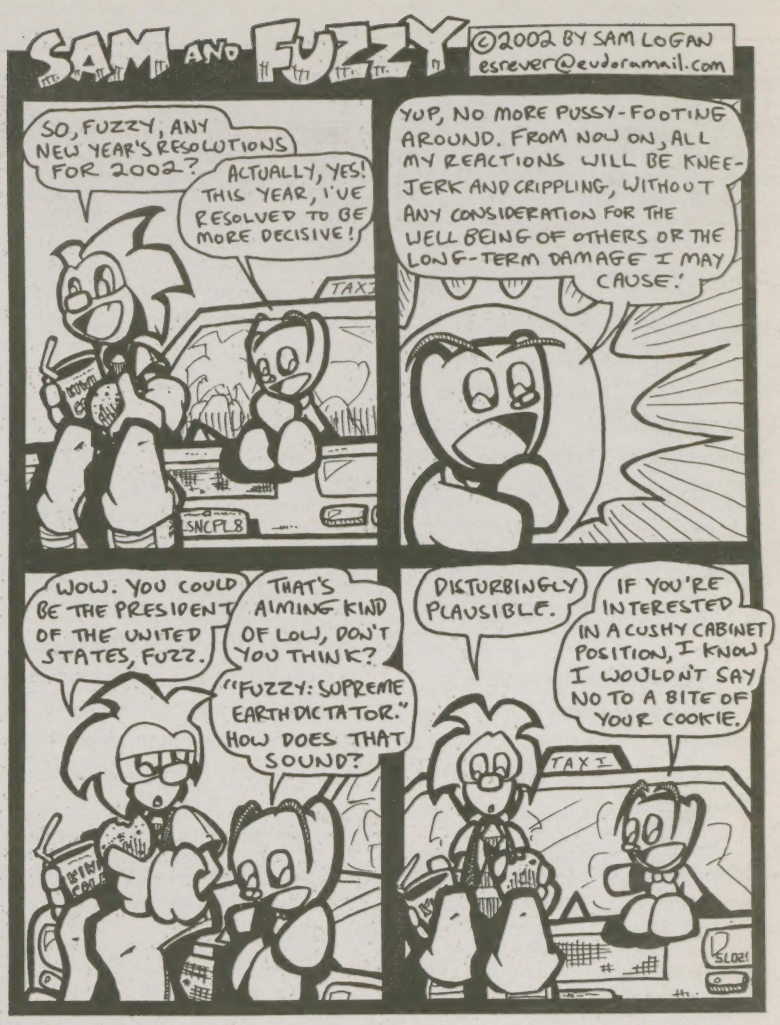

BILLY! by Spanky Rogers
So you will do favour for Ramone then?
I don't know. I felt a little bit weird waxing your back last time.
No, No. Ramone now let's "make a wish foundation" use his back for less fortunate kids to wax.
Ramone needs you to sneak into house and steal film taken at party of someone who allegedly looks like Ramone fuc... uh... kissing someone.
ew... you were kissing a girl
No. Ramone was kissing a man. Ramone is very straight, he just likes man love more than woman love.
There's a girl in my class who eats her own boogers. One time she went to the bathroom in her desk.
Yes, it was in for a while but Ramone never felt comfortable with the urination thing.
Come on. Ramone will teach you how to spell you name with an accented "e". What do you say Billé!
Oh, alright.
Good. Now here is the plan.
Couldn't I dress up like a boy scout. They sell door to door too.
No, all Ramone had was clothing for girl guide. Besides, Ramone's Dutch friend's website only pays for pictures of child transvestites. Now hold still while Ramone gets camera.
GIRL GUIDE
You ready to go on your own? Ramone has no money for cab so you will have to take the bus. Remember don't talk to strangers. Unless they offer you money. Then Ramone gets 20% for getting you gig. Ramone is also partial to candy and puppies.
BUS STOP


SAM AND FUZZY
©2002 BY SAM LOGAN
esrever@eudoramail.com
SO, FUZZY, ANY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2002?
ACTUALLY, YES! THIS YEAR, I'VE RESOLVED TO BE MORE DECISIVE!
YUP, NO MORE PUSSY-FOOTING AROUND. FROM NOW ON, ALL MY REACTIONS WILL BE KNEE-JERK AND CRIPPLING, WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION FOR THE WELL BEING OF OTHERS OR THE LONG-TERM DAMAGE I MAY CAUSE!
WOW. YOU COULD BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FUZZ.
THAT'S AIMING KIND OF LOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
"FUZZY: SUPREME EARTH DICTATOR." HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
DISTURBINGLY PLAUSIBLE.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A CUSHY CABINET POSITION, I KNOW I WOULDN'T SAY NO TO A BITE OF YOUR COOKIE.
TAXI

COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH BY BRIAN FUKUSHIMA '01
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS MOVIE ELMER...
C'MON! 'DUDE, WHERE'S GODOT?' STARRING ASHTON KUTCHER AS VLADIMIR AND FREDDIE PRINZE JR AS ESTROGON!
BUT EXISTENTIALISM FOR THE BOYBAND GENERATION? ...
OH WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER SEE, THE REMAKE OF 'SMALL WONDER'?
ACTUALLY...
OH PLEASE. IT'S FAR TOO LATE TO RESURRECT THAT ONE. NOBODY EVEN REMEMBERS THAT LITTLE R&BOT GIRL.
I DO..
That'll be one firstborn child please -
POP
NACHOS
UH... ARENT YOU A LITTLE BIG FOR THE BOOSTER SEATS?
BOOSTER SEATS.
NACHO
NO WAY! FLIP THESE BABIES OVER AND THEY'RE HOLLOW! THAT WAY YOU DONT HAVE TO GET UP TO GO TO THE BATHROOM!
THAT'S IT, I'M GOING TO 'SMALL WONDER'.
OH COME ON, WHAT D'YOU EXPECT, WE GOT NACHOS!
NACHO
END
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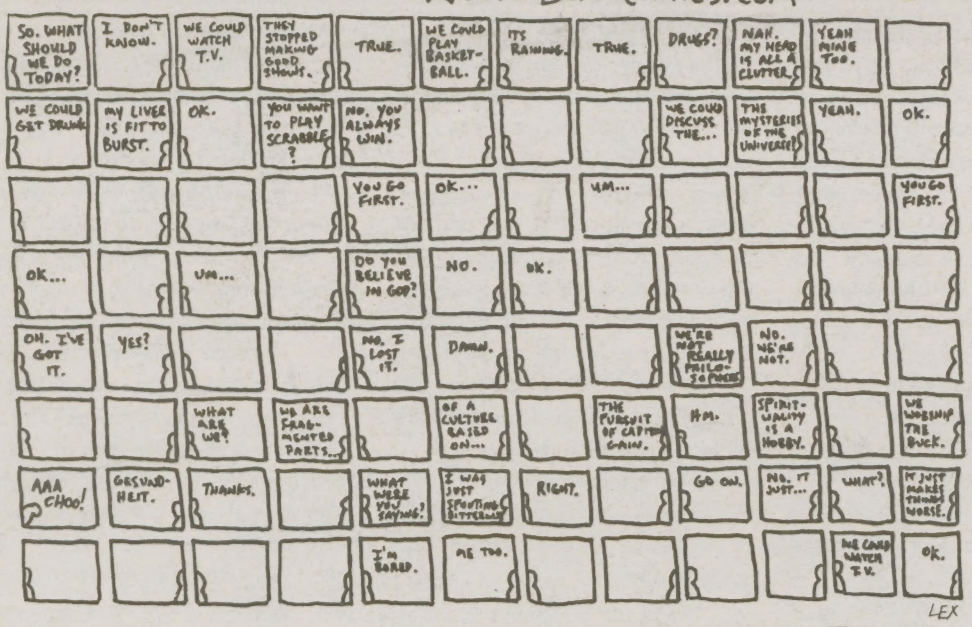
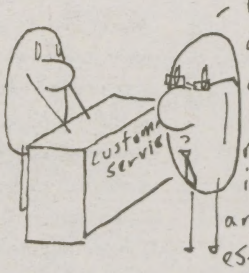
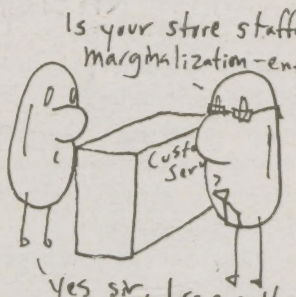
$
~BE~ BEAUTIFUL (BUY THIS)
WATCH T.V.
STOP SMOKING! (OR YOU'LL DIE)
STOP REQUESTED
©2002 JAY
WARREN FIDGETED NERVOUSLY. HE'D HEARD THERE WAS A PSYCHOPATH ON EVERY BUS.

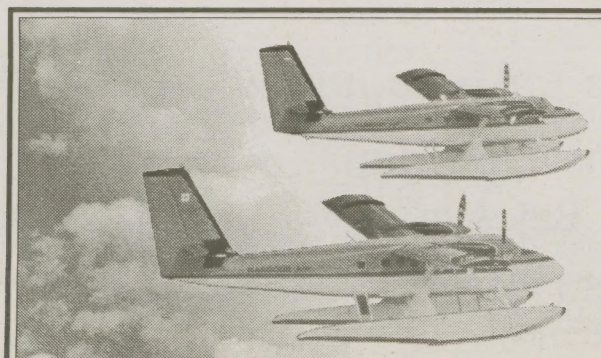



Excuse me, I was just asked for a fraction of the slough of my income by a labor-market non-participator occupying an area outside your establishment.
Customer Service

Goombas @Mattel.org



Ahh... January. A time of new beginnings. This semester I'll go to all my classes, do all my readings, join study groups, and get all assignments done at least a week in advance.
Hey! Why stop there? I'll become a Big Sister, volunteer twenty hours a week to good causes, start a social justice club on campus, and give all my beer money to charity.!
Aw, who am I kidding? Welcome to another four months of endless procrastination, late assignments, all nighters, pathetic grades, enough coffee to kill a cow, and many a useless night killing my once bright mind with jug after jug of sweet, sweet beer.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